Way of Holiness by Grace

(Religion, Sexuality and Purity)

My Personal Story

By: Eric D. Hou

I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. Psalm 40:1

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This book has not been completely edited. Please pardon the errors in writing.

Introduction of the author:

Rev. Eric Hou B.B.S. grew up in a Holiness Pentecostal pastor's home. He graduated from Ava High School in 1993, in Ava, Missouri, USA. He then attended Free Gospel Bible Institute located in Export, Pennsylvania graduating with honors as salutatorian in 1996. Afterwards began mission work in Taiwan. After completing his first and second term in Taiwan, came back to the States to complete his Bachelor Degree in Biblical Studies at American Christian College and Seminary in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma graduating in 2001. Feeling God's presence at an early age in life to be different from others, he was baptized in water at the age of 9 in Rome, Missouri. Later, He also experienced God in a very real way at the age of 13, experiencing the presence of the Holy Spirit and also an experience in speaking in tongues, without actually even comprehending what was happening. It was a turning point for him and brought about a hunger for God and a desire to pursue Christ.

He has been involved in missions and evangelistic ministry in approximately 14 countries and much of the United States. At the point of the publishing of this book and thesis he has been involved in the ministry for 22 years. Feeling the call to preach at the age of 18 and then the call to missions at the age of 20. He attended language school to learn Mandarin Chinese in Taichung, Taiwan. Studying the Mandarin Chinese language formally for a space of around 3 years. He now preaches in fluent Mandarin. He is a minister, missionary, evangelist, author and English and Spanish teacher as well. We hope that this book will benefit and minister to you and open the eyes and hearts of many who are deceived, and bring hope to the weary and forlorn. Also we hope this book will open the eyes of those that are bound in the deceptions and fears of well-meant religious bonds. May Christ set you free for when He sets us free, we are free indeed!

Dedication:

Dedicated to Rev. J.R. Alexander, a holiness minister that treated me so well in my youth, for being the first one to tell me that one day, I would write theology books, although he most likely would not endorse my topic. Also to all of those men and women who gave up on God and on church simply because they felt there was no hope for them. Also I dedicate this work to those pastors who have "fallen" simply because they were blinded to the truth that God has allowed me to see. If we could just go back centuries and allow this truth to be known then, the world would have been a different place and many souls would not have been lost… but we cannot go back, but simply go forward with the truth that we have today.

Statement of Faith:

1. I believe in the triune God consisting of the Father, the Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.
2. I believe in being born again through the blood of Christ by grace not of works and this grace covers our sins past, present and future as long as we continue to walk in Christ and maintain a relationship with Him. I do believe in the possibility of backsliding, if a person cuts themselves off from Christ by utterly rejecting Him and turning their backs on our Lord. It would mean that the relationship has been broken.
3. I believe in being baptized in water as a symbol of conversion and also of partaking in communion as a symbol of Christ's sacrificial death for our sin. Although I have also partaken in foot washing services, I believe it carries great symbolism with it, but it is not necessary to salvation.
4. I believe the Holy Spirit can infill us, a subsequent experience to salvation, to endue us with power and may result in speaking of tongues and other gifts of the Spirit such as healings, miracles, prophecy, signs and wonders, etc.
5. I believe the Holy Spirit works in us to give us a sanctified and holy life.
6. I believe we should not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, but should attend church regularly and have devotion time in our lives of reading the Bible and praying.
7. I believe one day Jesus will return to catch us away to be with Him forever.
8. I believe in Heaven and Hell and those that are born again by the blood of Jesus Christ will inherit eternal life.

Jubilance:

God's blessings are always so great and He addeth no sorrow with it! In His joy there are pleasures forevermore! Great is His faithfulness. In summer and winter, springtime and harvest... so doth his grace lead us for it is sufficient to face any failure or foe. In Him do I rest and trust. Ne'er an arrow can thrust through the bosom for His shield doth hide me and His glory is my crown. All is still and quiet for the battle is already won, in Him I do rest. Peace like bubbling brooks in a grassy dale, for in this combe He doth keep the entrance and no adversary may pass for He is my keeper and in Him I will forever trust. He keepeth us in his comfort as doth a hen gathereth her chicks. So am I under His wings of protection... for His peace is my rest. Jesus is my fortress and refuge.

Forward:

One reason I write these words of truth is because of the pain that many have suffered over the years…pain of rejection, pain of realization, pain of hiding and pain of condemnation from those that do not understand. If only people would have known these truths about 50 years ago or even 100 years ago, what a difference it would have made in the church today. How many lives might have been saved?

Some things written in this book have been repeated during the writing process, I continued to reiterate different truths that would come to me as I wrote on each particular topic. If you find some of it redundant, it is simply because I wrote this book over a period of around 8 or 10 years. The process was long as it contains my own personal journey.

Chapter 1

Oppressive Memories from my Youth:

Reading in the book of II Samuel about David and all his wives and children that he took. I began to think about the love he had for God and also the love that God had for him. Even the bible says his love for Jonathan surpassed the love of women. This causes some to believe that he even had a sexual relation with Jonathan. Although there is no definitive proof of this, it seems highly likely that their love would have been considered abnormal for the day. Even Jonathan's father Saul, despised the relationship and said he had brought shame upon his mother because of his love for David. But even in all these things, David was still "a man after God's own heart" and yet Jesus still didn't live in his heart. Christ hadn't come yet. How much

more will God attend to us when Jesus does live in our hearts and I do feel His Spirit all around me and in my soul when I pray, how much more so, when my husband and I pray together and read the bible together and sing praises to God together and we both feel the Holy Spirit resting upon us and refreshing us in our hearts. It is amazing and so refreshing to rest in this peace that we are accepted in Christ just as David, even in all his crazy life and wives and relationship with Jonathan as well. How much more are we accepted when the Holy Spirit lives inside of us!

If I could have just known this truth long ago, it would have saved me many hardships and pain. If I could've known that it was okay to be gay, that it was normal, that it wasn't a sin to be different than others, I would've lived a much happier life. Most of my youth was spent begging God to change the very thing that He created me to be. Begging God in fastings and prayers to take away the very calling that He had placed in my heart… to be a gay man, to reach out to others just like me. From the time I was young, all I can remember is that I was

different. I wasn't as masculine acting as my brother, I wasn't as macho and I couldn't do everything that he could do. It shouldn't have defined me as lesser than him or lesser than other guys my age. I was simply "me". I am and was myself. I am fearfully and wonderfully made as the Psalmist tells us. Made gay? Yes! Simply to be the person God made me to be.

I remember feeling and knowing that I was gay when I was younger than 16. I remember reading a Chick tract that was at my cousin's house. The tract was a Christian literature small comic book. It was about Sodom and Gomorrah. It had drawn comic pictures of muscular looking men kissing inside the tract. I already knew that I was different somehow, but after seeing this tract, it brought a kind of reality to the difference that I felt in my heart. I remember kissing my brother's classmate that he had brought home from kindergarten. I was but 4 years old, but I still remember my mother telling me that boys shouldn't kiss other boys. I didn't understand why. Later when I was around 5 or 6 I remember riding in the church van home after a service, one of the 8 or 9 year old boys kissed

me good night after he got out of the van. I remember feeling all warm and bubbly inside. I didn't know why it would be wrong to feel these kinds of feelings. But when I was around 15-16 years old is when the truth really sank in. I realized there was no way that I could be straight. I wasn't attracted to women in the least… not even a tiny bit. I only had feelings for men. In school I would see guys in P.E. class or in the gym and they would take off their shirts. My heart would race I would try to look away but sometimes I couldn't help but look. The beauty and attraction that I felt when I would see their body, and yet all I saw in myself was weakness and evil. I would pray constantly. It became a constant thing, almost from the time I woke up in the morning until I would go to bed at night, repentance. Constantly repenting of all my sins. Thinking that almost every moment I was sinning. Every time I looked at a guy without his shirt at school, or looked at some nice looking man and felt attraction, I just knew that I would go to hell, so I had to repent. It was torture. I felt jealous in some ways, of the guys from church or from youth camp or from my school that

would say, “Oh that girl is beautiful.” And they would joke about it. Laugh about how pretty she was and maybe consider asking for a phone number etc. But for me, just simply the thought of … “that guy is really cute.” All of a sudden it became sin to think this way, because I thought being gay was completely wrong in all aspects, no matter what. This mentality almost drove me into a complete breakdown. Like literally, into a state of mental anguish.

I began to think that I had blasphemed against the Holy Spirit. I remember working my first job when I was 16. My dad had helped me get a job working at a diary farm for one of his friends. I helped to milk the cows in the evening after school. One day the farmer asked me to wash the barn on Saturday and he would pay me extra money. So that Saturday I went and worked for several hours washing and cleaning the barn. During this time in high school there was a guy that went to my school, he was either one year younger or one year older than me, I didn’t know, but every time I saw him, my heart melted. I didn’t know how to control the “long-distant” crush I

was having. Every time I saw his naturally curly blonde hair and athletic build… my knees melted and my heart ached and sometimes… maybe even a more physical, uncontrollable response that was embarrassing. It scared me. I would start to repent immediately and beg God to take away these horrible sinful feelings. That Saturday I was spraying water in the milk barn, when all of a sudden, I think somehow, Satan spoke to me, or spoke to my mind. He told me, "Why don't you blaspheme the Holy Ghost and then you can just live however you want and you don't have to worry about trying to be a Christian anymore, 'cause then it won't matter." I remember these thoughts came to my mind. I immediately knew it was the devil and I rebuked him in Jesus' name. I told him to go away and stop bothering me, because I knew that no matter what I didn't want to go to hell. If only I had known then that it was okay to be a follower of Christ, a true Christian and to be in love with someone of the same sex, then I would have never suffered the horrible battles that ensued. I went home that day and told my mom a little about the torment that came to my mind in the barn that day. I

didn't tell her all the details, but simply the horrible thought, because that night all of a sudden, Satan came back to me telling me, "You've blasphemed! You are lost! There's no way you're going to heaven now! You're going to burn in hell away from your family forever and ever!"

I began to feel horrible fear. I would rethink over and over that day at the barn. Did I say anything? Did I really somehow say something that would have made me blaspheme? Did I really damn my soul to hell that day somehow, even not wanting to? It became a constant torment. It would keep me awake at night. I would hold my finger against a bedside lamp trying to see how hot it was and think about how this fire would feel if it was all over my body. It scared me to death. I would fast and pray that this "being gay" would leave me. I didn't know what to do… all the while thinking I must have already blasphemed. So when I could convince myself that, no, I hadn't actually said anything that would turn me away from God and damn my soul to hell, then I would feel peace for a few minutes and then I'd see a word written on something and bad

thoughts or dirty thoughts would come to my mind and the fear would return. To explain what I mean, I would see the letter "d" for example, then I would think of a curse word that started with that letter, then I would think that I must have sinned against the Holy Spirit again by thinking that dirty word. It became a constant struggle, until I literally had become what today we would call autistic or at least mentally disturbed, in my actions and nature. If I saw a letter that started with a "d", then I'd have to quickly find a letter that was "b" or "p" to cancel out the "d" sound in my mind, because I certainly didn't want to see the letter "m" after seeing the letter "d" or then I would think that I had actually said the curse word in my mind, causing me to sin and possibly even blaspheme. It was a never-ending cycle. I thought if I put my head "down" on the pillow, that I would be saying this word and would therefore be sinning… simply by context of sound. Then I would think if I put my foot "down" on the floor or the ground I would be sinning. So I would have to think of a word that started with a "b" or a "p" after taking a step or after putting my head onto my pillow at night or

otherwise I might think of a word that began with a “m” and then I’d think I had sinned. It was absolute torment. I learned to say certain words frequently. They were my “cancel” words. They would somehow “cancel out” the bad letter “d”. I would say the word “probably” all the time and usually when I said it, I would say, “proba-ba-ba-ba bly”, or I would say the word “whatever” and yet I would say it, “what-t-t-t-t ev-ev-ev-ev-ver-ver-ver”. It was the only way to make sure I said it perfectly and correctly or I was afraid I was sinning or that something was lacking and it would make my mind feel crazy and uncomfortable. I was constantly afraid that somehow that “d” letter and that “m” letter might get connected in my head or in my speech and then I would be blaspheming. What a horrible feeling to go through this torment! What a scary, scary thing! I can’t even begin to imagine why or how I could believe such nonsense, but the devil will do anything to torture and torment, even often in the name of religion. It all started from the fact that I knew I was gay and knew that there was no way I could or would ever be truly

attracted to females. My parents didn't know what to do. My mom took me to a doctor, the family doctor, for a consultation. He asked me questions like, "Do you have friends? Are those friends boys or girls?" I felt humiliated. I knew what he might be getting at. It seemed that maybe he was suspecting some sexual behavior or something. It was awkward. I didn't want to tell anyone about the experiences I had when sleeping in the same bed with my friend from church. I had reached over in the night and touched his leg. It was exciting and scary to touch a guy. It happened at least 2 or 3 times. When he would come visit, I would sleep in the same bed and then touch his leg in the night. One night he grabbed my body and pulled me over to his front and held me tight. I remember the emotion and the stimulation of that first sexual encounter. I had a nervous attack. My body began to shake all over and I couldn't stop it. I got up and went to the bathroom and cleaned myself and began to pray and beg God to forgive me while kneeling in the bathroom floor. There was no one to talk to. No one to ask, for if I did ask, it would have only brought condemnation of sin,

because the church I grew up in was intolerant of such things to the ultimate degree. Some may want to blame these kinds of things for the reason that I am gay today, but that would not be accurate. I was attracted to men long before this encounter. It was a part of my genetic make-up, a part of who I was born to be. Going back to the doctor visit, he then, after asking me some questions, said things like, "Well, you have to realize that even if we've done something bad that God will forgive us if we ask Him and we don't need to worry about it anymore." This was the consultation that my family doctor gave. Well it was pretty good for a family doctor. He then prescribed nerve medicine. I remember taking the medicine and I would actually sleep all night. But as soon as I woke up the next morning, I would go through the torment again. My dad got so tired of it he decided to take me to an old pastor's house. The pastor and his wife prayed for me. Then the pastor told my dad, "You need to take control of this! You are the head of your house and have the authority over Eric so when he starts this stuff, stops walking, or won't lay down, or starts acting strange,

you take control over it!" I didn't realize what was happening. For many years, my dad had a major temper, he was a pastor, but he had a very strong volatile temper. (We all need grace to deal with whatever our struggles are.) He would get angry at my brother and I and beat us with his hands or fists. Sometimes on our heads or pick my brother up by his hair and throw him on the ground and kick him or beat us with a broom handle… or belt. Not just whipping it was beating and slapping and one of the worst kinds of abuse, 'verbal', telling us we were stupid or worthless. But what I didn't realize that as a 16 year old, when the pastor told my dad to "take control"… my dad took it to mean he was supposed to beat me into line! From then on if my dad saw me stop in my tracks or start crinkling up my face in prayer to beg for forgiveness, my dad would run and beat me on the head with his fist. Slapping me over and over until I moved and walked. Sometimes he would force me to walk around and around in the house, walk past all the "words" I saw or the trash can… because all of those things in my mind meant "bad" or "dirty". I can see where making

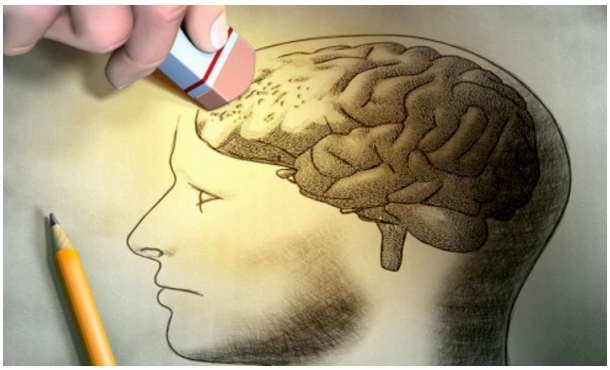
me walk was a good thing, but the beating… no, that was another story. I now was facing three terrors, the fact that I knew I was attracted to men, the thought that I might be blaspheming against the Holy Spirit and would be doomed to hell for all eternity and the fact that my dad was beating the living poo out of me every time he saw me crinkle up my face in fear. To say the least, it was an ongoing nightmare. I can't even imagine ever going through that again. The fear that was in my heart, the night terrors, the depression, it was uncontrollable. I think no one really could understand what was happening in my mind at that time. I know I'm not the only one that has dealt with this kind of torment. I've talked to several others that have went through this kind of thing and many times it even causes physical problems, not to mention the emotional and psychological trauma. I was in high school during this time, and I can remember the school counselor being called in to watch me during class time. Two different times a counselor came in to watch me. The teacher had noticed that I was having a mental breakdown and didn't know what to do to help

me, so the counselor was called in to see what she could do. On those days, I realized what was happening and would be on my best behavior. I would hide somewhere to pray privately and try my best to not have to crinkle my face or hide my eyes in tormented repentance. So the counselor later called me in to ask me if there was something going on at home that I might need help with. Of course, I said "no". That was that, they didn't really try to bother me again, unfortunately. If only I could have opened up and talked to them it would maybe have saved a lot of mental anguish. Maybe I could have learned earlier in my life that being gay is normal and that it's not sinful, but simply who God made me to be. I might have been able to date a guy or feel romance at that age like so many of my peers and classmates. Instead, I had to cower in fear and hide outside to eat my little snack cakes at lunchtime and cry. I was afraid to sit in front of people to eat especially with guys, because I knew I was different from them. If I could have just know earlier that God made me this way and I am perfected in Christ, then I would not have suffered nearly as much in mental

anguish and torment of my soul.

These are some memories that I wish I could erase at times, but I can see more clearly now, that these things shaped me for who I am today. Without Christ helping me through, I don't know what I would have done. Thank God for His truth that was finally clearly shown to me.

Chapter 2



More Memories

As a child I always wanted to be with my mom or my sisters. If my cousin came over to stay with my sisters, I was constantly going into their bedroom to listen to them talk and at times they would scream at me to get out of the room because they were changing clothes or something. They talked about things girls talked about and I listened. I felt a part of their conversations. When I was with my brother and a male cousin or my brother's friends, I couldn't relate. It was like they spoke a language that I did not know. My brother's friends would say my muscles were like mashed potatos and they'd laugh at me. Therefore, at times I was rejected by the girls because of being a boy by birth,

and rejected by the boys because I was “too soft” or “too effeminate” for them. I didn’t know how to play basketball. I didn’t know how, nor did I want to play football. It was a tough dilemma. LGBT (lesbian, gay, bi and transgender) children go through things that the so-called “straight” world just really have a hard time “getting” or understanding. Thankfully there are several allies in this struggle that do not identify as LGBT, but they are allies in our struggle and they are affirming in their acceptance of us, even an acceptance of being a Christian as well as having an LGBT identity. I thank God for GCN (Gay Christian Network). It was founded by Justin Lee. It has progressed today as a healing place for many Christians that have struggled and had many difficulties in their lives. Thank God for people who will stand for truth in a world that shows so little mercy.

Here is one excerpt from a journal that at times I would write in. It was one day while I was in Taiwan doing missions work, all of these thoughts came to me:

Lonely?

Remembering:

Elementary school: tears, telling mom I had no friends... scripture quoted... He that hath friends must show himself friendly... but received no consolation... still... a loner.

Junior High: remembering gym class and no one wanting to choose me to be on their ball team... because I couldn't play. Loneliness... trying to hide in the locker room to change my clothes... being made fun of by classmates... hiding... running away from bullies... afraid... loneliness... once my little sister stood up for me... to my teacher, because bullies hurt me in class with boards and a cigarette lighter... still a loner...

High school: tears often, hiding to eat cakes for lunch, too afraid to sit in the cafeteria to eat lunch... no friends... no where to go... so I bought cakes and would sit hiding behind the school and weep as I ate my cakes. Loner.

Bible College: better... but still loneliness in heart... many tears... many prayers... many fears.... it seemed I had become a maverick... without wanting it to happen... it just seemed to be

my lot. Loner.

Mission field: sometimes overwhelming loneliness... at my church today... praying, pleading asking... hoping He is listening. Alone, Tears, not just tears... at times it is buckets... I figure God has to keep finding bottles to put them all in... a few friends around... but they are with classmates, other friends or family... for fleeting moments there is consolation of heart... but at times ever so fleeting...

I ask, "Why God?" Is it so wrong to ask why?

*He knows, he cares, where you are he's right there... he sees your heart, all the hidden broken parts, He'll take you in his arms, He wants to heal your scars.... Jesus knows just where you are.(*1) Consolation....*

***1."He knows He Cares" Chaz Bosarge/Chaz Bosarge Music**

Another excerpt I wrote with this book in mind:

A church had a pastor. This pastor prayed and poured his heart into trying to lead the church. Tried to train other people to do jobs in the church, lead the songs, play the piano, teach the children. Different missionaries helped with all of these efforts. The church went through many ups and downs, but through it all, the church went from just 3 people up to around 30 people or more… it grew and grew until there were several people and families. God moved in a mighty way. People felt God's presence. Several were born again. Some were healed by God's miraculous touch. Others were filled with the Spirit as God moved on them and some would speak in tongues. God's power was so near and sweet. But something happened to this church. When the people didn't know that the pastor of the church was gay, they felt he was anointed. They thought he was an amazing preacher and singer. They loved him. When he preached, people would be touched with God's power. When people prayed they felt God's moving hand among them. Even evil spirits inside some people would rise up and

need to be cast out. God was with him… but when some of the people found out this pastor was gay, it changed everything. The pastor felt God's presence still, but the people began to leave. Some left angrily. Other's stayed in hopes that the pastor would apologize and go through counseling and overcome his "evil wicked sin". He submitted to the counseling, even stepped away from the pastor-ship for a while. But in the time away, prayed and studied and confirmed more what he knew in his heart already, that being gay was not a sin if a life is shared with another suitable companion in the bond of matrimony and permanent commitment. But he kept these things in his heart and pondered them. Staying single for a while, he came back and began to lead the church again. God began to move again. Church growth came again. The fruits were evident in his life and ministry. But when people realized that his sexual orientation had not changed, once again he was asked to go away, forbidden to preach. The church dwindled even more. No longer was there a moving of the Holy Spirit in the church… very little, at the most, moving on those that tried to ignore all of

the turmoil. One sister would lead songs and worship and God would move. She showed much love to this pastor in spite of all people said about him. But because of the rejection of the people… it seemed the church began to die. Had the pastor changed? Had he brought about all the torment and decline of the church? No, it was simply the knowledge and preconceived ideas of the people. He was the same man as before. In fact his life had become closer to God and more firmly rooted in God's Word. But because of the knowledge of people, the church was on a path of decline. Why do people, when they see the fruit, still reject the fruit as though it is bad, when God is blessing it as good. The same pastor sang at another church that didn't know him. The power of God came down, people prayed and cried and worshipped. The pastor asked this pastor to come and preach at his church because he could feel that God's anointing was there and on him… yet if he knew the knowledge that the others had known… he would have ignored the pastor that was gay and most likely kicked him out of his church and never invited him to preach. I'm telling you

these things, because this is part of my story.

Chapter 3

KEEP
CALM
AND
TELL ME
THE TRUTH

Truth Must Be Shared:

I am reminded of a story, a missionary went to Sierra Leone, West Africa to spread the Gospel message to the peoples there. After some of the natives became believers, they asked the missionary, "Is it true that if we don't know who Jesus is, we would be lost?" The missionary said, "Yes, but thank God you are born again now and you don't need to worry about being lost! Jesus came to set you free!" But the natives replied, "But what of our parents? What of our grandparents and the generations before them? Why didn't you come sooner? Why didn't someone come and tell us the truth?" When I heard this story

my heart was so moved. Yet here in this day we are just getting the message out that being different in our sexuality is still acceptable by God. For generations people have believed traditions that are not necessary. For years people believed slavery was sanctioned by God and forbade whites and blacks to marry. Even today as I write this book, there are still those in parts of the world… especially in the USA that believe that blacks and whites cannot marry, or that the mixing of races is wrong or a sin. I've even heard ministers or pastors get up in their pulpits and declare this kind of mentality. They hold on to their ungodly prejudices and their hardened hearts and believe they are doing the "WILL" of God, while all along, all they are doing, is hurting more and more people with falsities and lies. Living a life of pharisaical boundaries and rules and yet falling so short of what God intended for His church and kingdom to be. In recent years many have written books on this subject. I have studied and read several. I have also read critics reviews for these books. Some have commented that the authors made God to look more like Santa Claus than God. Others blamed

the author for promoting his or her own selfish desires and feelings rather than truly following the Word of God. Some of the books ended with such a weak argument, even I wasn't convinced, while others, seemed to fill their books with so much historical detail that at times I felt overwhelmed and wasn't sure what God was trying to say to me. But I'm not here to criticize those other authors or their books, rather, it is because of them and of course through God's leading, and by His Spirit that I was able to come to the knowledge of truth. I honestly, thank God for every hour that those authors put into writing their books. I am hoping that my book will not just incite emotions but will cause you to think and ponder and consider. I hope that some will come to the realization that although God is a God that is just and righteous, He is also a God of mercy, compassion and love. His Spirit wants to lead us into all truth! So many will reply, "He commands all men everywhere to repent!" And so He does, and I hope that this book will allow at least some to realize that the codes of conduct that we sometimes require of mankind are not the codes that God

himself does require. Man has often placed himself in the place of God to condemn others for their actions and yet it wasn't God's will or plan at all. Man has even bound others into slavery saying that they were in the "will of God" to do so. So many have missed the truth of God's holy Word and so many have followed a code that was based on tradition and not on actual truth from God's Spirit. The Bible reminds us to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is not you that will stand before God for me, but I will stand before God for my own actions in this life. The only thing that can save me in the end is if I have been purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ! It is not by my works that I am saved, but by His grace and His blood am I set free from the laws of sin and death!

Chapter 4

The Law and the Letter

My writing of this book is by no means an exhuastive study on this subject. There are many books out there with much more detail. I just wanted to present a message, simple and concise for those who possibly don't like to read too much or that just want a quick simple answer on this subject. I know there will be critics and naysayers as to what I have written. There will be some that condemn me to hell for these words that are written but there will be some that will hopefully accept and agree with my message herein. But what I have written, is by no means just an excuse to sin, nor is it to excuse other people's

sins. I just hope that people can live in Christ and His fullness and realize that they can have true love with one another as well. If you agree, then thank God and if you disagree, then pray for me and pray for God to show you if the message presented in this text is truth.

I had someone tell me one time something to this effect, that "some people believe God is too rosy cheeked and like Santa Claus and just gives us our every whim and cares about our whining so much that He is willing to overlook our sin." This comment was in response to a book by Matthew Vines. When I read this comment, I was a bit annoyed and yet I realized that's how many people that do not understand God's true nature would feel. I grew up believing God was loving, yet full of judgment ready to pounce on the disobedient. It was a Puritan mentality. I was afraid of God. It took me many years to realize that God, although isn't like Santa Claus and doesn't just jump at our every whim and whine, but He does care about us and our needs and our hearts desires. For it is He who made us and in His image were we fashioned, with emotions and desires

and love, yet far too many have put the very creation of God into a box that only tradition and puritanical thinking can accept, whereas in the bounds of God's Word and in His righteousness I stand, not by my own works, but by the works He has already done for me and for my soul. It is not His rosy cheeks that I rely on, but on His truth and His mercy and love. For those that would condemn, I say, "If God be for us who then can be against us?"

In God's Word there is the law and letter that we see with our physical eyes and then there is the spirit of the law or letter that we do not see but sense with our spirit. When we live according to God's Word then it must become not just the law of the letter that is written on the page, but we must also live our lives and change our attitudes to fit the spirit of the letter that was written. It seems some people have tried to follow the law and letter and yet forgotten the spirit that goes along with that law and letter. Jesus came and brought that true spirit of the letter and law. When the woman caught in adultery was brought before Jesus, the Pharisees wanted to stone her. This was the letter and the

law, but Jesus gave mercy and brought about the spirit of the law and said, the person without sin can cast the first stone. We then see the mercy of God being granted to the adulterous woman. We also must show forth this kind of living when we follow God's Word. It's not just about the letter or the law, but the spirit of the scripture that is being given. When Paul wrote in Romans, Corinthians and Timothy about those changing the natural use of the woman or the men burning in their lust towards one another and worshipping the creature instead of the Creator… we must look at the context and spirit in which it was written. Time after time we can view the spirit of the scripture and realize that people that are born again, that are walking in the spirit are not fulfilling the lust of the flesh. Those that are in gay Christian committed relationships are not worshipping the creature instead of the Creator. The spirit of the letter was to not ignore God and burn in lust, be promiscuous in lifestyle and leave God's ways. The Scriptures over in Timothy and Corinthians referring to men abusing themselves and effeminate men… I know these Greek words have been translated in many

ways… but once again look at the spirit of the letter, not just the letter itself. The spirit of the letter is lust and promiscuity. Some versions even say this is referring to pederasty and many times it was referring to the sexual activities that went on in the heathen temples. The sin is the defiling of the body in sexual sins that are not accepted by God, the history of these words and context of these Scriptures were again the knowledge Paul had of the Roman and Greek culture of the day, sexual promiscuity, temple prostitutes, male and female. Men selling their bodies to men and sexual perversions without the acknowledgement of God in anything they did. Paul condemned these actions. We can see this kind of behavior today in bath houses or saunas for gay men, but in the confines of a committed marriage or committed relationships we do not see this spirit of lust and sin. The spirit of the letter must be followed, not just the law of the letter. Many, many scriptures have been misinterpreted and explained in exegetical error or even overlooked because many look only at the law of the letter and not the spirit of the written Word. Just as we know there are some scriptures that we may

not follow because we know that those scriptures were written in context of understood culture of the day. For example, Paul wrote that women should be silent in the church or that he did not suffer a woman to teach in the church. Also it is written that a woman should wear a head covering and have long un-cut hair. These scriptures are culture we understand now that our culture is different from the day that Paul wrote these scriptures therefore, we can understand that if a woman feels God's call upon her life to preach or teach that we don't forbid her. The scriptures in I Timothy and in I Corinthians where Paul used the Greek word "arsenokoites" has been a theological debate for many generations. Old translations of the Bible do not use the word homosexual but more modern translations do. To think that in the day of Paul that he simply categorized all same-sex relations into this one word would be exegetical error. In the day that Paul wrote this term he possibly was referring back to the Levitical law of the Old Testament forbidding male with male sexual relations, but the context with which he wrote this

scripture would have been as follows. A quote from Gay Christian 101 by Rick Brentlinger:

> "Pederasty, a sexual relationship between an older male and a younger male or street prostitution, where a male prostitute served male clients, shrine prostitution, where heterosexual men served the fertility goddess by offering themselves sexually to pagan worshippers, and male-male sex with slaves whether consenting or at times rape and economic exploitation of male slaves in male brothels. Homosexual relationships between male of equal status which received scant honor or encouragement from Greek or Roman society, because male-male sexuality between men of equal status was relatively rare in Greek and Roman culture, it is inconceivable that Paul specifically intended to proscribe these rare relationships." (Gay Christian 101 page. 307-308 Rick Brentlinger)

We see in the scripture mentioned above that Paul was forbidding something but he used a very strange or odd Greek

word to describe it. This word was not the known word for homosexual of the day. Other contemporary non-biblical writers used the greek words for homosexual in their writings and it wasn't the word that Paul used. There were other Greek words to simply describe male-male sexual activity, but he chose to use this word. If he wanted to forbid all homosexuals or lesbians, Paul would have used a more common word for same-sex activity. But instead he used a somewhat new coined word to refer to the wickedness of the idol temple rituals and the sexual promiscuity and prostitution of the day. Sometimes with children involved or slaves being forced to have male to male sex. As this was the sinful way of the Greeks and the Romans. Many men would take a young boy still in his pubescense and would sexually use the child until he began to grow hair on his body or on his face. Then it was time for him to move on. These were not consensual Christ-based love relationships at all! Now there were times that men of similar age would have relationships but it was often men of different status in society, such as master and slave. In fact in the New

Testament a Roman ruler came to Christ and told him my beloved servant is sick. When Jesus said he would go heal the servant, the man said, “I’m not worthy for you to come under my roof, but you can just speak the word and he will be well.” Jesus spoke the word and the servant was made whole. Jesus commented on the great faith of this Roman man. But if you know the Greek words that were used for “beloved”, it was also the common word used for lover which was very common between master and servant in the Roman times. There is no definitive proof of the Roman leader and his servant being in a sexual relationship, but in all honestly we read the Bible often with a rose-colored glass over our eyes, so to speak. The Bible is full of murder, sex, lust, adultery and so forth, and yet God still helped His people often even when they were doing terrible things. In context of the culture of today and of the spirit of the Word of God, it is in error to say that all homosexuals whether male or female of today would be condemned in these two mentions of “arsenokoites”. The Old Testament refers to male with male intercourse or lying with a man as with a woman,

as an abomination, as well as many other sins that we realize now that we are free from. The Bible also says it is wrong for a man to sleep with his wife during her period, or that it is wrong to mix two kinds of materials or plant two kinds of seeds together, or to eat pork or shrimp or rabbits or catfish and the list goes on and on and many are called an abomination. Even if one was caught picking up sticks on the sabbath, that person was stoned to death. Thank God we are free from the law since Christ came. Morally we still live a holy life, but without following all the demands of the old law. For there is no way that we can meet those demands. In Hebrews the Bible tells us that "The law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did." Paul was not referring to men and women of today that love God with all their heart, soul, mind and body and yet they are in committed same-sex relationships. We cannot use these scriptures in all honesty and use correct biblical exegesis to condemn gay Christians. Interestingly, in the Old Testament there is no forbiddance of female same-sex activities only male. Many men had more than one wife during this time

and it is very possible that sexual activity was inclusive of more than one woman at a time. If it benefited men, then it seems it wouldn't be mentioned. That of course is my opinion. But in honesty, there is no forbiddance of female same sexual activity under the old law. Therefore we can know and believe that in the New Testament that these laws have been put under grace.

Matthew 22:37-40 King James Version (KJV) *

Biblegateway.com

37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

38 This is the first and great commandment.

39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Also the New Testament council was trying to figure out what to tell the gentiles that were becoming Christians, what they

needed to do in order to follow Christ. The simple list was given, do not worship idols, do not eat blood, and do not commit fornication.

Acts 15:29King James Version (KJV) * Biblegateway.com

29 That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.

If we follow these two commands to base our experience with Christ on, then gay and lesbian Christians in committed relationships, pass this test that was given by Christ and by the New Testament church council. If God be for us, who can be against us!? Amen!

Another reference I'd like to mention is Sodom and Gomorrah is a common Bible topic that is often brought up as well as the others that I have already or will mention later in this book. But in all honesty the sin of Sodom was not just homosexual

activity. The Bible actually lists it as something else in Ezekiel 16:49,

"Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy."

The idea here is that the men of Sodom who were mostly all already married to women, because there were children, if they were all gay there would not be children…. These men wanted to gang rape angels. They wanted to treat the angels like they treated the men that they conquered in battle. It was common to rape men after conquering them in battle to humiliate them before slaughtering them or making them slaves.

We should stop adding to the Bible and preaching things that the Bible does not say! I have seen it over and over throughout my life, preachers preaching in front of huge crowds, and because of the emotions and mentality of the crowd, the ministers would preach silly ridiculous things. They would claim if you break

these rules you'll burn in hell, or if you do this you are a sinner! STOP it! I say STOP preaching nonsense people! Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Grace is what saves us, not works. Christ paid the full price for my sin past, present and future. Although the future tense, doesn't give me excuse to just life in sin as Romans tells us. But I do live under grace and I am holy because of His grace, I am free because of His grace. I am a child of God forgiven, fully redeemed by the effecacious blood of Christ that paid my whole debt!

I have seen those at places like GCN conferences (Gay Christian Network) and saw the fruits of God's Spirit in their lives. I have witnessed as they were moved on by God's power and his love and anointing flowed through them. Oh that God would lift the veil of condemnation from Christian's eyes to let them see that God does accept gay and lesbian Christians as well. Those that seek Him with all their heart will not be led astray. Is it not strange that even the mention of women same-sex relations are only in the context of pagan temple worship only in the New Testament? Even the Old

Testament does not mention this. The New Testament only mentions it one time and it is in pagan worship. In this respect we can also know that Paul was criticizing the idolotrous sins of the day not simply two people loving each other in a Christ based love. The Greeks and Romans were known for their promiscuous sexuality. They worshipped the body it seems, above all things. Sexual perversion was everywhere, this was what Paul was referring to, not committed same-sex loving relationships that love God and serve Him together. Why do we so casually explain away some scriptures and yet others we feel we have to discriminate a whole group of people simply because it doesn't fit within our preconceived theology?

Some have mentioned that same-sex relations are wrong because they are perverting the image of Christ and the church. I hilariously had one preacher tell me that being gay is wrong but that I should be satisfied because Jesus is my groom and I'm the bride, so I should rest in the fact that I'm already married to a male spiritually. To say the least it was a ridiculous way of describing why he thought homosexuality was wrong. But it

did bring up a point to me, Jesus is the groom and the bride is the church in a symbolic way. But I and many others in the church are men… yet we represent the bride. Isn't it interesting that even in that scenario that it is still a symbol that Christ the groom will marry his bride, (even masculine) and this is the image God gives us to show purity? Yes it is an image of purity, it's not about male or female but about the purity of love between two people in the bonds of Christ's love.

Chapter 5

The Exception

In everything in life there are usually exceptions, whether it be in math or grammar rules, rules for everyday life, rules for the family, rules for clothing and style, there are always exceptions. It is no different with God's creation or His written word to us. Things in God's Word are interpreted in so many different ways by so many people, thus all of the divisions of so many different kinds of Christian churches. On the other hand, we know and believe that gravity is supposed to work a certain way, yet because of the fall of man many things do not always follow the natural law of physics or the laws of inertia, or possibly even the laws of thermo-dynamics. There tends to be

errors and discrepancies lurking in every corner. Time passes differently in different parts of space or other such discrepancies all have an impact on how we view the world. Or yet, possibly God just made it this way, made these discrepancies, because to Him they aren't discrepancies. His ways are above the ways of man and His thinking is far above our thinking. When we thought we had it all in order and understood the very basic rules, then suddenly something shows us that we didn't quite get it all. The rule of grayness has come forth. The world tends to see all things in black or white, right or wrong, accepted or forbidden, and yet there are areas that are called gray, that tend to be in question… What should I do with this? How should I face this? What should I do Lord? Is this the right way? And somehow God, in His infinite wisdom and mercy looks down and by his providence He extends a hand of mercy and a still small voice that says, "My grace is sufficient for you and I know the way that you take. I'll never leave you nor forsake you, even though you walk through the valley of the shadow of death… trust in me and I will lead you unto life everlasting."

These are just a mixture of some of the quotes that God has given to us. There is no stipulation. In your mind right now you are arguing probably with this one sentence… there is no stipulation. Yet in our minds we want to run through a list of stipulations before we even know all the facts. Maybe you are saying, but we must turn from sin… yes, or stop doing that… yes, or start doing this… yes, but in the beginning there are no stipulations with God… simply come to the throne of grace to find help in time of need… let everyone taste and see that the Lord is good! For God so loved the world… Ho, everyone that thirsteth let him come!

But my question to you is, what about that exception? What about those that society has cast out, that are as lost sheep without a shepherd, those that do not know how to become the so-called norm, what should we do with the exception may I ask? Those that are born a little different, those that are female at birth, yet born with genetic markers to make her more masculine, or those that are born male at birth and yet have more genetic markers for a more feminine behavior. What about all these

that are different, without wanting to be, it just happened, what about them? Scientific research seems to have shown that often that many factors affect one's sexuality, including hormones in the mother's womb or hormones in the individual themselves, or genetic differences, or even chromosomal differences. For whether or not admitted, the exception does exist even in the realm of creation of mankind, for we are all under the fall of Adam bringing about a non-perfect world, as the whole creation travails in pain waiting for the day when Jesus will return to redeem us from this burden we bear. But just because we live in this kind of world, doesn't mean that being LGBT is a part of a curse or fall of man. For in LGBT relationships, the very redeeming love of Christ can exist. Dedication, steadfastness, faithfulness and deep affection and unconditional love can and does exist among not only straight couples but in gay and lesbian couples as well.

It is a known fact that when many leave cultic teaching they often return or at least they wish they could return, sometimes going through painful processes to re-enter the cultic teaching,

due to the fact that human minds desire to belong to a group, for there is comfort in belonging to others that think and feel just like we do. We see what we want to see, believe what we want to believe. Human nature is to feel that if we follow all the rules then God or a god will be happy with us and will bless us and give us abundant and/or eternal life. There is a basis of truth in these statements that is why we cling to cultic teaching sometimes, in hopes that we have found the right way or the right manner of which to live, always hoping for greater enlightenment from God. Sometimes in that process of hope and desire we are lead deeper and deeper into deception. Led deeper into a world that was not intended by the Creator at all, deeper into bondage that Paul told us, Jesus came to set us free from. Through this book that I am writing, I hope that I can lead some out of the bondage and fear that possesses so many minds, whether young or old, I fear for many it is too late and for some, it will never be accepted. But perfect love casteth out all fear and Christ came to set us free from all bondage. May God use my words to bring freedom to you. Through Christ and in Christ

alone I place my trust. For in Him is all truth. The Spirit of truth will lead us into all truth!

Chapter 6

Freedom in Christ

To experience the emotional rejection of leaving a church group that excludes you from their inner circle when you don't follow all the required rules, it is one of the hardest and most difficult things to face in life. I know because I went through this. I grew up in a very strict Holiness Pentecostal church. There were many wonderful people in the church and many that truly loved God, but much of the teachings of that group were strict bondage and many do not know the freedom in Christ. Many adhere to manmade laws and rules and think if they don't

follow them somehow God will not be pleased or if they break the rules that they will burn in hell for all eternity. To realize that what you have believed your whole life was in basis wrong, although there were and are many truths that exist within the circle, the outer lying teachings and so-called truths were in error even of God's Word, this is one of the hardest things to come to terms with. The rejection of all, the rejection of friends, the sad look in the eyes of family, the look of disdain from members still deceived by it's practices and then the look of pity from those that truly do love you. It's one of the hardest forms of rejection that one can face. To know and realize you have hurt those that do love you and yet in your new-found freedom and joy of knowing Christ for who He is, not for who you are not, will cause one to never want to return to the bondage of the law as Paul relayed to the Galation church. Jesus has set you free, Paul exclaimed, why then would you want to be under bondage once again? Yet in this self-redemption of bondage comes comfort. A pride comes in this kind of click. Looks of pride on people's faces for

knowing they followed the rules. Pride in being the prime example of this man-made rule set. For in that comfort one receives looks of approval, not from God, but from man. Looks and nods of comfort come from those you love. They too are deceived to believe that works of righteousness is the only choice they have. In it they find comfort and coercion to continue on in this due process of God's Old Testament laws and Jewish mannerisms of formal consolation, consolation that if I follow all to the jot and tittle, I will obtain inheritance, yet God forbid such works to be. For if you try to follow all the law, then one law broken advances us to the position of the law breaker, but simply if I rely on Christ himself and his efficacy then are we truly redeemed, free to live in Christ's eternal sacrifice of freedom. What hurt and rejection we may face, yet through it all, I have obtained that freedom in Christ. As many cults do to their followers when they abandon the desperation of practicing of good works to obtain salvation and favor with God, so have I felt that same abandonment by many. When I return and visit those that are still under the shadow of law and Old

Testament demeanor, I have seen the looks and disparagement in their eyes, only to realize, my heart is free. I can sing, because I'm happy, I'm can live, because I'm free! I can rejoice that I am born again, by His blood. I am born again by His grace. Not by works of righteousness, lest I should boast of my obtainments, but it is by his great grace and mercy that He has redeemed me from this world! Thank God I am free, free, free!

I am reminded once again of the missionary story that I included in the first part of this book. If only we had known sooner! In my book I wish that I would have known when I was younger. I wish someone would have told me when I was a child. It would have saved so much heartache, pain, weeping, and even suicidal thoughts if I would have just known these truths that I know today. "Perfect love casteth out all fear!" For in Christ we are set free from the bondage of sin and the bondage of fear!

It seems among many churches people grow up in fear of everything. We are afraid that if we do this or that, that maybe

we will lose our salvation and we will go to hell. I know there is backsliding and I do believe salvation can be lost if we turn our backs on God, but salvation is not so fragile to think that if we do not follow every rule that is preached and taught from the pulpits that we will go to hell. We have forgotten the grace of God that keeps us even in times of faults and failures and even sins.

1 John 2:1-2 King James Version (KJV) *

Biblegateway.com

2 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

The grace that covers us and is sufficient for us no matter what we face. The idea that grace isn't enough; is fear. It is a fear that has been put into the hearts of so many young people. Growing up in this kind of teaching, I lived in constant fear and

torment that my soul would be lost due to some slip or mistake in my life. I repented constantly, every time I had a bad thought, every time I looked at something that made me feel sensual or sexual, I was constantly repenting. Interestingly enough I never felt those kinds of feelings for girls. It didn't arouse any feeling at all. But if I walked past the guys at school in gym and saw young guys in the gym without their shirts, or workers working out in the sun or guys swimming at the pool, then yes it did arouse feelings that scared me to death. Do you know how hard it is for a young man in his teens to never have bad thoughts? I know God helps us, but we are still human. I had lived in constant fear almost my whole life up to the point that I began to write this book. Sometimes the fear will still come, but I have to remind myself of my place in God's Kingdom and how many times He has spoken truth to me through His Word and I have to remain calm in His peace that passes all understanding.

In fact during the process of writing this book I visited a service in the southern part of Taiwan. The missionaries there

are with a group called Encounter Missions International. A Pentecostal based group that is LGBT affirming. The organization is from Long Beach, California. The two ladies, a godly Christian couple that have been married at this time for over 20 years, Denise and Diane that I met from that group, started a mission in Taiwan. Pastor Denise preached that Sunday morning and honestly I don't really remember what her sermon was about, but after she finished preaching, she said she felt like the Lord wanted her to pray for people with needs. I had been living in fear, afraid… always worried and afraid. The conservative culture and deep somewhat brainwashing that I had learned my whole life at times bothered me. I had heard so many sermons on so many rules and regulations that I lived in constant fear. I was worried about being gay, worried if it was compatible with being a Christian, worried if I would go to hell or not. What fear tormented me! I remember that morning when she called for people to come up to the front and pray if they needed help with something, I thought, I'd like to go, but I don't really feel much. That's when I heard the sweet

still small voice in my heart and mind. I felt like God spoke sweetly to my heart and said, if you'll go forward and let her pray for you, I will remove the doubt and fear. I will heal you. I thought, what do I have to lose? I stood up and walked to the front. Pastor Denise came over and laid her hand on my head. She began to pray for victory in my life and she began to speak in tongues as God's Spirit fell upon me. I began to weep and speak in tongues. The chains of fear and bondage were ripped from my heart, mind, soul and body that morning. I rejoiced in Christ. I wept for joy. I cried to the Lord and He heard my prayer. He took away the fear from years of legalistic teachings. He took away the fears of being Christian and yet loving another Christian man. It was gone. He showed me truth. He set me free. I am free in Christ, and whom He sets free is definitely free indeed! I no longer wear the chains of sin, nor the chains of fear. My life has been knitted together with another amazing Christian man and our lives are in Christ's hands. We follow Him as our Savior, our Lord and master. We are free from the laws of sin and death and we live

victoriously through Christ and His sacrifice made us whole and His grace sustains us, and His Spirit comforts us. I belong to Christ. No man may take that from me. No man can take away that relationship.

Romans 8:1-5, 37-39 * Biblegateway.com

King James Version (KJV)

8 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

[5] For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

[37] Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

[38] For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

[39] Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I can remember preaching one time in a small town in Missouri. I remember at that time people had been arguing over whether or not it was a sin to wear a wedding ring. I preached and said, "Is God really that shallow? That He would send us to

hell for one little piece of gold on our finger?" People sat there quietly looking at me, knowing I was speaking the truth, but no one knew what to say. I was just speaking the obvious, I was telling the truth about the elephant in the room. We were arguing over something that didn't even make sense, while people outside the church and all over the world were dying and going to hell because they were not saved… and we only had to argue over whether a piece of gold on our finger was going to send us to hell or not. I can remember so many messages being preached about things such as wearing short sleeves or split's in a woman's skirt, or pants for a woman… that was considered an abomination. So man of these things that were taught in the churches I attended. It now scares me to think that I believed those things at that time and even at times preached them thinking I was preaching truth. We like to feel that we are doing something. We like to feel that if we are full of good works that God will be pleased with us. The Holiness Pentecostal churches that I came from, and several other groups that follow very similar codes of conduct, such as the United

Pentecostal Church, have been full of goodness and great moves of God, but when we focus on outward appearance only and not on the very fact that we are saved by grace not by works, then we lose the whole concept of salvation. God doesn't mind if you feel that you should wear a dress or skirt only as a woman, it's okay. If that is the conviction that you feel in your heart from God, then do it and be happy that you can do something different in your relationship with God but honestly, Jesus came to set us free from this kind of bondage. This kind of thing is not a requirement from God's Word. These are man-made requirements that have been passed on from traditions of men. Many times women feel guilt about dressing a certain way because of cultural teaching. If you go to a foreign country where that hasn't been the norm and where they don't have old English Elizabethan or puritanical backgrounds, then the women will feel no wrong, even as a Christian in wearing pants or shorts, or cutting their hair. It's not in these things.

Romans 14:17 King James Version (KJV) *

Biblegateway.com

17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Paul asked the Galations, "Why would you return to the bondage that God set you free from?" Remember these so-called "convictions" are often man-made and passed on, not from God or His Spirit. They are felt often as a condemnation. God does not condemn, He convicts sin and gives a way of freedom from that sin, and when you comply to His Spirit there is peace.

Paul said in Galations 2:18 "For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor."

I have heard this Scripture used in reverse so many times. People saying that if you gave up something as a "conviction" and then you start doing it again, that you become a transgressor. They have taken the Scripture completely out of context. In fact, Paul was referring to those that had left the law of bondage, the Old Testament laws of traditions and customs and all kinds of rules and then tried to go back to them again. God wants to set us free in our spirit and our minds, but people try their best

to remain under the bondage of traditions and customs of the church or of teachings that have been passed on, simply because it is tradition, not because it's bible. Jesus came to set us free from this. Why would we want to go back under bondage again? Satan wants God's people to be in bondage, to believe, if we don't do some particular work of righteousness then I will be lost… then the grace of God is overlooked and Satan then rejoices in binding God's children in fear. The very sacrifice of Christ becomes over looked because we are relying on our own so-called "convictions" to bring us closer to God and we feel we have accomplished something, when actually we are just putting ourselves back into another form of bondage that God set us free from. We cannot tell others they are going to hell because they do not line up to every rule in our books of holiness living, for God didn't write those rules, man did. Search again and study again and realize that many many things that have been taught in our churches are not required rules by Holy Scripture. It is God's holiness not our own. It is His grace, not our own. It is His works not our own. I don't have

to “TRY” to make it to heaven because Jesus already made the “WAY” for me. Below is an excerpt I wrote for a Facebook post:

You don't have "to hope" you can know that you are ready when Jesus returns... you can KNOW. *:)* I think sometimes Christians live in fear hoping they will make it, always worried, or always begging God, help me do better... oh I hope I'm ready and on and on... but we can have that confidence in Christ that we are made pure, that we are holy and righteous before Christ, not by our own works, for if it's by our own works we would all fall short... but we can have 100% confidence that we are ready to go without fear of failure or missing the mark or missing the catching away of the church, because we have been bought by the blood of Christ and are a royal people, a holy nation and royal priesthood... redeemed by the precious blood of Christ. Perfect love casteth out all fear! Put away your fear of not making it... and rest in Christ. WE are His children! Rest in

Him, if your sins are under the blood, then you are ready to go. No need to wish or hope or fear... He already bought us and paid for our entry... just continue to follow Him and when the trump sounds your feet will rise. *:)* Fear not... have faith.

It is not my works, but His works. I've heard so many people say things like, "I just need to do better." Or "Oh I don't want to do ANYTHING that would be displeasing to God, oh because I want to be ready when He comes. Oh, I'm so afraid that I might make a mistake and not be ready when He returns." These kinds of statements show that people are not really understanding of the grace of God. They don't realize that HIS GRACE not my WORKS will get me to Heaven! When we begin to think that it's our works that is keeping us in a relationship with God, then we have begun to lose that relationship already.

I heard a minister say that he overheard a Holiness lady minister talking at an outdoor camp meeting. The weather was

hot during that week, and she said, “If there are women in Heaven with short hair, I’m going to be angry.” Why did she have this kind of attitude?? Because she didn’t like to have her long hair, she would rather have cut it off, but she followed the rule because it’s what everyone gave her pressure to do. I do know the scriptures show us that if a woman has long hair it is a glory to her… so therefore if as you pray and God deals with you to follow this teaching, then do so with a happy heart, not because you are forced to do it. Yet on the other hand, we must read scripture in context of when it was written. That was tradition and custom of the day, no longer required as a Christian of today. It is not something that will affect your soul or your relationship with Christ, and when you try to follow these kinds of traditions and rules, then you become burdened down and your walk with Christ can become cumbersome. And also remember that often following of these customs are actually not God’s requirement but man’s passed on condemnation.

I want to quote from a book that was written by Matthew

Vines. A man that I have come to respect from the very first time I heard him give a class at a GCN convention in Chicago. I respected him and his desire to follow God's Word fully. Here are his words about the scripture referring to hair on men and women.

Paul himself used the word "nature" to refer to what we understand as "custom." In I Corinthians 11:13-15, after instructing women to pray with their heads covered, Paul wrote, "Judge for yourselves: Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? Doe not the very nature of things teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him, but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory?"

The words "nature" and "disgrace" here are the same words Paul used when describing same-sex behavior in Romans 1:26-27. But most Christians today don't read I Corinthians 11 as a teaching about God's design for human hairstyles and head coverings.

We generally interpret Paul as referring to the customary practices of his day and the societal shame caused by deviating from them. The way many Christians read this passage is along these lines: "Don't the customs of our society teach us that it's considered shameful for a man to have long hair, but honorable for a woman?"

This interpretation helps us reconcile I Corinthians 11 with the Old Testament's statements about hair length. Numbers 6:5 says that men who take the Nazarite vow "must let their hair grow long" in order to set themselves apart for the Lord. Second Samuel 14:26 praises Absalom's abundant hair, and 2 Kings 2:23 recounts how Elisha was taunted for his

baldness.

So how can it always be disgraceful for a man to have long hair? We can't reach that conclusion in the light of the Old Testament's positive statements about long hair in men. But we do have writings from Paul's day associating long, uncovered hair in women with sexual suggestiveness, which helps explain Paul's insistence in I Corinthians 11:5-6 that women should wear head coverings. (God and the Gay Christian: ©copyright 2014 Matthew Vines. Pages 112-113)

Yet we know that hair coverings are customs of the Jewish people and only extreme and radical sects of religion force their women to do so. Men have always tried to put women into bondage to control them. Look at world religions. Women are oppressed on every side. Strict forms of Christianity make their women dress in plain old fashioned looking clothes and even the groups such as the one I came from press their women to have uncut hair, clean faces without makeup and long dresses. They are not allowed to wear jewelry or any finery. It is oppression. Many world religions are like this as well. The Islamic religion is one of the world's most oppressive religions for women. Mormonism another extreme cultic and radical religion has oppressed women since its very unsavory beginning. The list can go on and on of radical cultic teachings throughout

the world where women are repressed and controlled by fear. Remember Jesus came to set us free from the law of bondage. We should not feel that if I'm a woman and I cut my hair that I'm going to hell. That is preposterous. God is not that shallow. Does it even make sense to think that the cutting of hair is a sin? It is not in line with the loving Savior of the Bible! He came to give freedom. He came to bring life not death. He came to bring freedom not bondage. Remember Christianity liberates women and puts them on equal ground with all of mankind before God.

Paul said in Galations 3:28

"There is neither Jew **nor** Greek, there is neither bond **nor** free, there is neither **male nor female**: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

We must view scriptures in context and remember that customs of the day also played a role in the way Paul wrote. We must understand the time that the bible was written. It is not

always taken at absolute face value. In fact even Paul himself said at times that he was writing his opinion and then the rest would be from the Lord. Even some scriptures are overlooked or explained away because they don't fit in with modern culture, such as women being silent in the church or to learn from their husbands at home or not to suffer a woman to teach or be in authority. We realize that these scriptures were often custom and traditions of the day. There are many exceptions to the rules, and that is why there are so many different denominations of Christianity and each claim they have ultimate truth. How many times have I heard people tell the men that we could not grow beards, that it was sign of rebellion! Jesus himself had a beard. Oh dear, I think Jesus, Peter, Paul, John the Baptist, none of these people including the Lord himself would be allowed on most of the Holiness Pentecostal church platforms today, because they have made God's Word "so-called" holier than God himself. In fact in one holiness church I was visiting, the Sunday school lesson in the adult class was about how we must follow ALL the Word of God. The teacher was

emphasizing about how we must follow the Old Testament and the New and we must follow ALL the rules therein. I sat there that morning with a feeling of, well almost a bit of regurgitation. I was dumbfounded by his lack of theological training and how he had completely misunderstood the principal of the Word of God that we are saved by faith not of our own works! Oh the fervor with which he taught the law that Sunday morning! Sadly deceived and sadly bound.

I took some young men from Taiwan with me to the USA for a huge holiness camp meeting service. The church was packed and the Holy Ghost did move in such a mighty way, but in the cafeteria during the lunch meal I overheard a holiness pastor telling "nigger" jokes at the table. I was so astonished at their words, hurt and anger welled up in me as I listened to it. I was so glad the Taiwanese young men could not understand the jokes. There have even been ministers that criticized people of color from the pulpit accusing the young black men of coming in and trying to date the white girls. The pastor would stand up and say even birds know better, "the red bird knows to mate

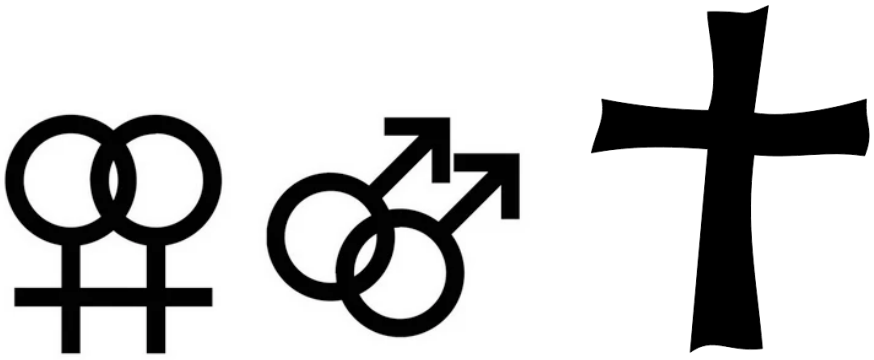
with the red bird and the black bird with the black bird." These were the comments from a well-known holiness pastor in our organization. In fact at one point I even got into an argument with my older brother about how blacks and whites are the same species and there is nothing wrong with being married together. My brother became so angry that he slammed on his brakes throwing me into the seat in front of me and hurting me. He apologized later, but I told him if he ever did that again I would not go back to his house ever again. It was a kind of breaking point in our relationship. We have since learned to ignore it and just not talk about controversial subjects, but sadly I realize that is the mentality of that kind of church movement. It is oppressive, cultic and strong bondage. It is discriminatory and anyone who disagrees, it seems there isn't much of a place for you in that group. Thank God we can be free from that! We don't have to live in all that bondage. Christ came to set us free! We were taught in the holiness churches that the outward appearance is what matters, and yet often our hearts were just like the Pharisees, full of dead men's bones. If the outward

appearance passed the test of following all the rules, then we were accepted. We put on a holy front and yet treat people with disdain and scorn if they have "committed" some kind of sin that we think is more disgusting and horrible than others. We look at some and act like we don't know how to help or sometimes we don't want to help, because we don't want to have to deal with "that". I remember at one particular service at my home church at the time in Blanchard, Oklahoma, we had a young man come in to the service. He came up to the front and knelt at the altar and prayed that night. After he prayed of course the pastor asked if he wanted to say anything. The young man stood up and said some things about thanking God for helping him and how he had done some things that he regretted. Later I was with the group of young people from the church and one young man was talking about the guy that prayed. He said, "Yeah regretted some things? He's a fag." I felt so angry. The response was so far from a Christ like response.

Oh, God help us to move past all these things and start to fulfill

the true Great Commission of Jesus Christ to “Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature…” The devil loves for us to argue and fight and discuss as long as we are not doing what Christ commanded. As long as we are fighting we are not winning the lost and people will be lost.

Chapter 7



Exhortations on Homosexuality and Christianity

The reason I write these things is because of a great pressing matter that has torn at my soul from my childhood. Not knowing how to share the deepest intense feelings of confusion and sadness that enveloped me. Drowning myself in prayers and fastings and trying my hardest to keep myself pure before God. Praying everyday throughout high school, begging God for forgiveness of "unnatural" thoughts that possessed my being from as far back as I can remember. Yet as time grew on, I began to study God's Word deeper, and study the true meanings of scriptures that had been used so many times to preach at

people like me and God began to show me things. I believe that God's will can be shown to us in three ways, first by His Word, or by His Spirit, and by His providence. Through these three things I write this book, hoping that someone will listen, that someone will be set free, and that someone who is considering taking their own life because of the feeling of hopelessness they have inside… I hope that this book will change your life and see that in Christ you are a new born creature and that you are free from the law, free to live in Christ a holy purified and sanctified life before God, with His blessing and His approval upon you, whether you are heterosexual or homosexual.

It has always been a great issue within the church to be concerned about issues of holiness or issues of modesty and morality. It has always been a known fact through out the Old and New Testaments that God does require His people to be a holy and righteous people. The New Testament of course does give us many liberties that the Old Testament did not allow. But we will get into that later in this book. For right now I

would like to thank you for taking the time to pick up this book and read it in interest of hoping to find a closer walk with God where as possibly, many people around you have said that you could never find that kind of walk with Christ. Perhaps you have heard this because of some choice you made in life or because of the way you feel inside and you don't know how to change. Throughout life there will be many people who do not understand you and never intend to, because they put God into a little small box and if anything doesn't fit inside their box then it is "So not the will of God!"

What is the Will of God anyway? How do we know what the will of God is? Well we know that God tells us in the New Testament that His sheep will know His voice. So if you are praying and staying close to God, especially if you are filled with the Holy Ghost, which is a gift given freely to any who would receive, you can and will know the voice of God! You can know the will of God by His Spirit, by His Word, or by His providence. Wow, how can I know all those? Well, you simply ask in prayer, that is, earnest prayer! You must spend

time seeking God for direction, to give you peace about a step that you need or must make. To put this simply, God's Spirit can and will speak to us. Sometimes it is simply to our hearts, we can feel that God is telling us to do something, then there are times that God may use someone else, moved on by the power of the Holy Ghost to speak to you about something, of course we know that if this happens it must be in alignment with the Word of God or otherwise it is considered null and void. Anything that is spoken in prophecy or message in tongues and interpretation, must be aligned with the previously written Word, otherwise it is of no affect and therefore spoken in excess and is considered not the Will of God in any manner, but an error on the part of the person thought to have been used in the gift. The gifts do not prove that God's approval is upon your life, but the fruits of the Spirit are what we are to use to judge if Christ indwells within your heart. To give you an example of this… after the Spirit of God left Saul because He had disobeyed God and refused to really repent with a sorrowful heart, when he got near the prophets, he would prophesy… he could still feel that

power, he could still feel the anointing… but when he got away from the prophets, he could no longer feel that and he would cease to prophesy.

The second way that God might speak to us to show us His will is by His Word. The Word of God has been tested and tried and proven to be true over and over again. There are no places in the Word of God that are in contradiction. It will all coincide together to form perfect truth. If you find someplace that sounds contradictory, then you have not studied deep enough to figure out what God is trying to really say to us. To believe the Bible we also have a doctrine that is called the Divine Preservation of the Word of God. No matter what language it is translated into, there will be enough truth and solid foundation translated that God will be able to use that Word to reach the hearts and souls of the people into whose language it has been translated. So English may not be perfect, the translation may not always be exactly perfect, but there is perfect truth there. Enough for us to live the right kind of life before God and have an eternal home in Heaven and to be able

to avoid Hell at all costs! So the Word of God can speak to you about the Will of God. You could be reading and all of a sudden something seems to jump-out at you. Then you just know that it's the Lord telling you something. Other times you simply flip open your Bible and there in front of you is a verse that speaks to you so clearly that you know it was God that wanted you to read that verse right then and that time. Maybe you have read that verse a million times over, but that day it just stuck out to you. God knows how to get His Word into your heart, not just into your head only.

Finally the other way that we can know God's will is by His providence. Start walking toward the goal that you have in mind… begin to prepare for it, and if it's not God's will, as you continue to be prayerful about the matter of course, then if it isn't God's will, He will close the door. If it is His will, then all things will work out according to plan, His providence allowed it to happen. But you must remember the key is to saturate your life daily in prayer, not just say, well if it's God's will then I must accept it! That is not the right attitude, we

must spend time on our knees talking to God, asking for His will and not our own. Just as Jesus did in the garden the night before He gave his life for us, "Father not my will, but your will be done." One of my teachers when I was in Bible College said to us, that each and everyone of us should prepare to go the mission-field because it was already listed in the Word of God to "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." She said if it wasn't God's will for us to go, then He would stop us and the door would close before we went through it. Now I can see so much truth in that. Sometimes we want to act like the only way we can know God's will is if we hear a voice from Heaven, or if we see lightening, or if we feel so deeply moved that we can't stop crying or something so supernatural happens to PROVE that it's God's will, then we will simply say, "Oh I don't have that calling! There is simply NO WAY!" Why do we do that? Because we are stubborn and don't like to leave the comforts of our homes and the comforts of our lives. Many instead want the glory of being seen in front of people and being known and having the biggest

trailer and truck to travel around so that others can see their beautiful dresses and clothes. Or is it just because we want the glory that is to be found when others know our name and can see our status?

The will of God is not that hard to discern. Sometimes, it is simply common sense as to what God wants us to do. God's will is not like a maze where you only have one inlet and one outlet, and you must squeeze your way through only the one direct channel to make it to His will. But God's will is rather like a box with the perimeter's being simply God's written Word. There is an inlet and an outlet but the lines in that would-be maze are to be erased because anything within the box can be God's will. If you are within the perimeters of God's Word. It doesn't take lightning, it doesn't take prophecy, and it doesn't take the moving of mountains to simply follow God's perfect will.

I cannot express the importance of what I have written here enough. I wish that I could read it in every Christian camp meeting to every child, to every adult, to every father and

mother… so that they would see that God's truths are much deeper than just simply the outward appearance of hair or dress, which are not what holiness is about anyway. There are deeper truths of God's Word that we need to learn and know and yet so many have put their self into bondage, just as the Pharisees did in the New Testament times. They were trying to keep everyone under the Old Laws and Jesus said He came to set us free! What have we done for so long? Listened to preaching that was more concerned if a sister in the church had trimmed her hair or if the brother had a wedding ring on his hand or wore the wrong clothes? All I can say is that these kinds of laws and rules have caused many, I say many, to leave the church. The church that I know has power. I have seen it with my own eyes. Those who do live a higher standard of living and walk a holy life before God do have power with God. I am not denying that at all. But each must have his or her own relationship before God. I know people who don't live the so-called church rules and yet they have God's anointing and power more than many that do live all the rules. It's not about

man-made rules, but about salvation in Christ, when we remember it's not our own works that is saving us, it's all Him! One point I am making is that when we focus only on one thing we lose the most important thing, that Christ came to set us free from the law and from the laws of sin and death.

This book is in no wise to be considered complete, for this one subject could be written on with many hundreds of pages, but contained herein is simply basic teaching and basic words that I am trying to communicate with you and any who will listen in layman's terms. So that any who read even down to the young person that is struggling with the fact that he or she knows they may have feelings for someone of the same sex. I hope someone will read, believe and live a happy life before God and enter into the joys of the Lord without fear of damning his or her soul. Because in no wise does scripture give this context. So I will do my best to simply explain some things to you in the following pages. Though brief it may be, I hope that it will arrest your soul and you will see my petition. Those of you that cannot and will not accept, I ask for your forgiveness,

that you will not be bitter towards me, for I am only doing what God from above has put into my heart to do. To help those who are in great need. Jesus came not to heal those that are whole, but those that are in need of a physician. For many are wondering as sheep without a shepherd because they have been driven from the fold as if they are goats, when all along they are sheep that are hurting and need restoration into the fold of Christ, for they are not goats, they are sheep of the Greatest Shepherd of all times!

Something for all of us to remember is that many Christians view the world as a very black/white or right/wrong place. They never consider that there are gray areas that are not easy to be understood. When we run into these so-called "gray" areas we want to run away from them or forbid them, or pretend they don't exist. But these gray areas do exist. One of the largest examples of this gray area is the fact that according to medical statistics, out of every 2000 births in the world there is one child born that is hermaphrodite or that is born with both male and female reproductive organs also at times the lack of a complete

set of either male or female reproductive organs. Also medically, it is possible that approximately 1 out of every 500 births actually contain crossed chromosomes or genetically are a mixture of male and female, some more than others. How do we deal with this group of people? They are neither fully male nor fully female. Who do they marry? Who do they partner with? Some of them are very androgynous looking neither fully male nor female. Some of them look very male and yet their sexual organs on the outside are clearly female and yet inside they have testicles or they have XY chromosomes making them officially male by medical standards. What do we do? Do we reject them as misfits? In the Old Testament these kind of people were not allowed into the tabernacle or were considered outcasts. But we live in the New Testament times where God has said let ALL come to Him through the blood of Jesus Christ. He didn't say we had to do surgery to try to make them look more feminine or do some kind of counseling course to make the man walk more masculine or talk deeper. God made us all different. We are like a fingerprint in the eyes of God, made in

His likeness and in His image. Yet just because some people are different than what we feel is normal does that make it a sin? No, of course not!

A doctor here in Taiwan was in the news for stating that medically it is true that hormones while the fetus is in the mother's womb, does cause the child to be more feminine or more masculine possibly causing the heterosexual or homosexual sexual orientation. It is just simply ideas and guesses of the medical profession. But we that have these feelings know that we are different, and many of us know this from the time we are very young. Does this mean that God rejects those people just because they are born differently? Of course not! It is not their fault that they are born that way. Just like a child that is born with a limb missing or with extra fingers… or maybe a child that is born with mental disabilities… does this cause that child to be a sinner? What about people that are born with extreme intelligence, do we say they are not normal? God forbid that we would think like that! Then why do you think this way when a child from the time he

is old enough to even talk… everyone knows that he's gay or she's a tomboy? Everyone can see that he is not the same as his brother or the same as some of the other children, or people can see that she doesn't act like other girls. We want to try to brainwash him to believe that it is a sin to love another man. I can remember the first time I kissed a boy… he was my brother's kindergarten classmate. He came to visit our home. I thought he was cute so I kissed him. I was only about 3 or 4, but I still remember my mom telling me that boys can't kiss other boys. I wondered why. It didn't make sense to me.

We want to brainwash her that it is a sin to fall in love with another girl. We try and try and then the child struggles everyday thinking every time he looks at a boy in high school and sees another young man without a shirt or see someone in sports class… and in his heart all of these "so-called unnatural" feelings emerge, we want to say that he is a sinner and cannot go to heaven if he acts upon them? Or if the girl feels attraction to another girl at school and wants to hold her hand or be close to her then we tell her it's a sin and she will spend eternity in hell.

This kind of teaching brings about suicidal thoughts and rejection from society, telling these that are different, that they are a freak and against nature. Oh we have turned a blind eye to the fact that some are born differently than others. That God created all and all were created equal, yet all were made very differently. Not everyone fits into the robotic pattern that many in the church would have us follow. We have tried to ignore it until the church has cast out our own and then we talk about them and shake our heads as if they "MADE SUCH A HORRIBLE CHOICE" to be gay or lesbian! Do you think that child would actually CHOOSE rejection? Do you think that a child would actually choose to be so different that he or she couldn't even fit in with his or her classmates? I can remember being in high school and knowing that I was different. I knew I was attracted to men not to women and I was so embarrassed to go into the cafeteria to eat my lunch. I couldn't fit in with anyone. I would go in long enough to buy snack cakes. I would see the hot meal plate lunch and wish so much that I had the nerve to eat it. But there was nowhere for me to sit, there

was no friends for me to communicate with. I was the oddball. If I sat with the guys, then I was attracted to them, so I was like a teenage girl around cute boys. I didn't know how to act and I felt awkward until I would squirm and sweat and be so embarrassed to sit there. Then if I sat with the girls, it was so humiliating to sit with all girls, because the only ones that would let me sit with them was the girls that weren't pretty and didn't have any guys chasing them. Oh I know it sounds cliché. It sounds like something you might see in an American high school movie setting, but it was true for me! I would buy the little cakes and go out and sit under the trees or nearby the old school building behind the bushes and eat my cakes and cry. I cried so often. I cried all the time… because I knew that I was gay and would go to hell according to my church, according to everything I'd ever heard or ever believed in and according to the church I grew up in. So I daily begged God to forgive me. Every time I saw a guy at the gym with his shirt off, I would become aroused just by looking at him and then I had to go into quick silent prayers to beg for forgiveness. Oh the torture I

suffered, everyday! It's not a CHOICE! Who in their right mind would choose to be attracted to the same sex when it is horrible pain and terrible rejection not only from family and church but also from those that are not Christian? It is an inborn feeling that doesn't go away no matter how much counseling or how much brainwashing you go through. Some pastors will tell you that it was a lie that you believed somewhere in your past or as a child and because you believed this lie you have been sucked into this homosexual lifestyle. I really want to ask, do those guys that are attracted to women or those girls that are always gushing about all the hot boys they like, did they believe a lie? Did they escape the lie? When did they discover they were heterosexual? There wasn't a day that just told them. It's the same for us, we didn't just start believing a lie, it was just feelings that came and attraction that is innate. It is nature. I have talked to those who have gone through this anti-gay counseling. They will tell you it helps to ease the pain, but I remember talking to several different ones and they all say, the desire to be in love with a man has never

left. It just becomes numb. If it was really sin and really wrong would God completely deliver? Wouldn't He somehow take it away and actually change the heart and mind to be completely desirous of the opposite sex? Only you could answer that… but from what I can see in the bible, is that Jesus himself said some men were "BORN" eunuchs! Yes a eunuch didn't have sexual relations, but there were many kinds of eunuchs in the Old Testament times. According to history not all of them had their sexual organs removed. They were considered effeminate men that would never want sex with a woman so they were considered eunuchs. Today they would be considered androgynous people.

Oh that we would open our hearts and realize that these young people can be saved, they can be filled with the Holy Ghost, that they can live a holy life before God as long as they treat their homosexuality and lesbianism in the same regards according to God's standards for a couple. It is better to marry than to burn the Bible tells us… but is it only for the "straight" couples? No of course not! It is for all. It is for the androgynous for

the hermaphrodite for the gay for the lesbian. We all have the right to choose a partner for our lives…someone that we can love, someone that we can be sexually attracted to, someone that we can share our love and the love of Christ with together in a loving home. As long as we live according to God's Word and accept Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, then we can inherit eternal life. This promise and gift is to ALL who is willing to come. This promise is to the straight, the "normal". This promise is to the "hermaphrodite", whether they partner with male or female. This promise is to those that are BORN gay or lesbian. Jesus NEVER one time condemned homosexuality by his own words. Others will say, He didn't have to, it was already condemned in the Old Law. But I say to you, that Jesus came to set us free from that law and He Himself fulfilled the law, for man COULD NOT fulfill it.

We often, in the modern world of Christianity, have more discrimination in our churches than the Pharisees. I have heard people teach that it is wrong for black skinned people to marry white skinned. I have heard people say, if you are

mixed-blood then you need to marry someone that is more similar to the characteristic that is the strongest. It is so ridiculous all of these stipulations that we put on people. We put ourselves in more bondage than God ever intended for anyone! God never intended for the gay young man to force himself to go through years and years of torment trying to change his affections and hiding it and crying all alone in his bedroom at night and repenting over and over again for looking at a man that he thought was attractive. God never intended for that young man to have to hide who he is or how he was born! He never intended for that girl to pretend to love a man when she feels nothing sexually for him, she becomes a robot in her relationship and produces children to a man that deserves her love that she has no idea how to give. It is not fair to the woman that needs love from a man to have to be married to a man that is constantly attracted to men not to his own wife. He stays with her because he always wants to believe eventually those feelings will go away or because of their children. Oh the pain that woman suffers knowing and seeing her husband be

turned on by men, not by her. When they go to bed together he has to let his mind wander to places that he is embarrassed to admit just to be able to let her feel something of a normality.

It would be no different than a child that is born with xyy chromosomes or xxy chromosomes begging God to forgive him or her for having the wrong chromosomes. It is known scientifically that gay and lesbian are sometimes different than those that never feel same-sexual attraction. Sometimes maybe their hormones are stronger in one area than another. It doesn't mean they are sinning, but that they are simply born differently. The bible mentions in the New Testament that the effeminate will not inherit the kingdom of God. What does this scripture mean? Does it mean that just because a boy is more "sissy" than another that he cannot go to heaven? Do we need to send him to "butch" school to make him acceptable on the streets of gold? Do we have to send the tomboy girl to lady's etiquette classes to get her into Heaven? God forbid that we would have this kind of thinking! The word effeminate in the Bible seems to refer to "call-boys" or male prostitutes. Those that

use sexual activity for monetarily gain and often they make themselves become as a woman to do so. Of course God condemns promiscuity and sexual immorality. But in the confines of marriage and commitment before God there is purity in relationship. I am not God and I would not know how to deal with many situations. I know visiting Thailand you see hundreds and hundreds of men that have already went through surgery and have completely changed themselves into a woman. They have no more male hormones. Does that mean that they can never be saved? I do not believe that! God's love can reach all. Do they have to go through surgeries again to reverse their errors? How could they? God's love is able to reach those that have changed their bodies with surgeries. Some even feel that they are women inside and they have changed into who they feel comfortable being. I am not the condemner of such. Their relationship with God is simply that… their own! Why would we condemn others when we have no idea what they go through. We must pray for understanding and for compassion for those that we don't understand.

God never intended for that young man that I mentioned above, the one that cried in high school… (I use this term, as I was that young man) to be so tormented that he would almost lose his mind thinking that every day was a life full of sin simply because every where he looked he was attracted to classmates or upper classmen or felt feelings when he would simply see a man without a shirt. There was so much attraction there, it is the same for a "straight" man when he is a teenager to feel this way about a girl. It's not a sin for the straight guy to feel attraction, he just has to control it. So it is for the gay young man or the lesbian young lady their desires must be controlled until they can find a suitable partner, but it is not a sin to be attracted to the one God made you to be attracted to. Why can't we see this TRUTH?... Because we choose to believe everything is simply black or white, right or wrong… we can find no middle ground sometimes. There are several instances in the Bible where God chose middle ground to prove a point to people in the Bible. In the Old Testament there is an example

that I want to refer to in the book of Samuel. God had spoken to the prophet Samuel that it was time to go up into the city to anoint a new king to be over Israel. God had already chosen someone besides King Saul's offspring. Samuel knew that if he went up into the city and told people that he had come to anoint a new king that King Saul would have him killed. Saul's son Jonathan should have inherited the throne, not someone from a different family. So God spoke to Samuel and said when you go up into the city to anoint the new king, when people ask you why have you come up you can tell them that you have come to offer a sacrifice. This was a gray area. The real reason was to anoint a new king, but of course he would sacrifice as well, but it was not the main reason. Did he lie by doing this? No, it wasn't just the complete reason. God told him to do it. We don't always understand why God does what he does, but God would never lie. We sometimes view scripture as perfectly black and white, no areas for change or different interpretation, especially in the kind of church background I grew up in. But that is the very reason we have

hundreds of denominations among the Christian sect today is simply because almost everyone views scripture in different ways. We can criticize and say they aren't correct if we want, but it doesn't help solve any issue. The point of the matter is we all have to "work out our own salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12 KJV) before God. In the churches I grew up in, we always made excuses for those that didn't follow the scripture quite like us. "Well, they just don't know yet." Or someone might say, "Well, they are just wrong and they can't be really a Christian if they believe that way!" I've met Christians that believed one had to be baptized in the name of Jesus and speak in tongues before they were really born again. Then I've met Christians that believed speaking in tongues was evil or that it was just not for today and on and on. I've met Christians that believed having a Christmas tree in your house was almost abominable and others that believed eating out at a restaurant on Sunday was a sin. But all this nonsense and arguing doesn't change the fact that the only way to be born again is through salvation in Christ alone. The very fact of

believing in Him and confessing in your heart and with your mouth the Lord Jesus! I've met Christians that believe all LGBT people are not saved and say they will go to hell, and yet there are many LGBT people that claim salvation and work in churches and do missions and pray and also speak in tongues and heal the sick and manifest the fruits of the Spirit as well as the gifts of the Spirit in their lives. Somehow there must be a realization that not everything we think or believe may be the exact truth. But don't doubt all, just realize that there is room for others in the fold that you may not be aware of.

"And **other sheep** I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd." John 10:16 KJV

I am reminded of a story in India where a missionary went to India for just a short mission trip. The missionary spread the gospel the best he knew how and passed out gospel tracts and then went back to the USA. Many years later he had another opportunity to go again to India to the same area where he had

been before almost 10 years earlier. When he arrived he met a young woman in the village. She told him, “Oh I remember you and because of you I know your Jesus.” He asked her where she went to church and are there any other Christians around. She replied, “No, there are no other Christians anywhere and no churches anywhere near here, but I pray to Jesus everyday, because He came into my heart 10 years ago after I read the paper you passed out to us then.” What an amazing story of the love of Christ. There will be many that will go to heaven that maybe we originally didn’t know would make it. Maybe there will be many there that we thought should not be there and sadly there may be some missing from the heavenly portals that everyone thought was a saint. Our salvation is personal and our relationship with Christ is not about people and what they think or want to point fingers at and say… “You’re not saved!” Because I know my redeemer lives! I know I am born again! I know by faith that I am saved. I know by grace I am saved. I know my sins are covered under the blood of Jesus Christ and yes I know that I am a gay

Christian. I was made differently for a reason. "What reason?" you might ask. Well God has His plan and His purpose and in Him I rest my case.

Chapter 8

More Contemplation:

I know and have met or at least talked to several authors of books concerning being gay and Christian. Some include, Justin Lee, "Torn", Matthew Vines, "God and the Gay Christian", Kathy Baldock, "Walking the Bridgeless Canyon", Sandra Turnbull, "God's Gay Agenda", Rick Brentlinger, "Gay Christian 101", Jeff Miner, John Tyler Connoley, "The Children are Free", and the list goes on and on from the books I have studied or read. One of the best and a bit more simple books that I read was "The New Testament and Homosexuality" by

Robin Scroggs. It really spoke to me and I learned much from it. Another book that I would recommend is “Bible Gender Sexuality” by James Brownson. This book is not so easy to read, but it gives a very in depth study of why being gay and Christian is very compatible.

The Christian LGBT community, as I have seen, are like sheep that need a shepherd, they often have been shunned by family or friends, churches, and workplaces, the list goes on and on. They are constantly searching for love, and if they can’t find it, sometimes just giving up to mindless sexual activity, because that’s the only time some of them can actually feel free, just a few moments of time with someone they hardly know and then go back to a life that is full of pretend and sadness and loneliness. But Jesus came to love those that were rejected, to lift up the broken-hearted. He came to bring peace to us. He came to help us find true meaning in life, in spite of all those that have rejected us.

There is a common thought that homosexuality is caused from the idea of one or both parents not loving enough or being

abusive etc. But I know there are many homosexual men and women that grew up in wonderful homes. There were no ill feelings between them or their parents. The love and care and affection their parents showed to them was perfect, nothing lacking, and yet they are homosexual.

Psalm 138:8

King James Version (KJV)

[8]The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.

In the summer of 2008 a young lady minister prophesied over me, she was a graduate from Free Gospel Bible Institute in Pennsylvania, a God-fearing young woman, with the anointing of the Holy Ghost on her life, she proclaimed that God was going to lead me on a path that friends and family would not be willing to accept, but God had placed me on this path for a reason and He would lead me, for it was His will that I be on

this path. I will probably never forget that service, as I stood in front of the church with my hands raised to God and tears streaming down my face. Knowing that only God knew everything in my heart, knowing that the minister who had just prophesied had no idea what she was prophesying about or what was in my heart at the time. I was in the process or quest as it might be to find truth about whether one could be homosexual and Christian at the same time. I had read many different books and things about this subject, and prayed and fasted many times concerning my own life and heart and wanting to know the truth from God, not just from tradition. Slowly over time, God began to reveal many truths to me from His Word that are there… Proverbs 25:2 says, It is the glory of God to conceal a thing, but the honor of Kings is to search out a matter. In Acts 17:10 & 11 the Christians of Berea were more noble than those in Thesslonica, in that they searched the scriptures daily to see if those things were so…

Another pastor's wife in the USA prophesied over me. She is a very well known respected godly woman in the holiness

Pentecostal churches. I was praying at a mission's conference, kneeling down at the front pew. My head was down and no one could see my face. This pastor's wife is also a minister, she didn't even know who I was as I prayed, but she began to speak in tongues and loudly pray for me and that's when God spoke through her, she begin to say, and I will use paraphrasing, (Do not be afraid of this path that I have chosen for you. I will walk with you. I have called you and anointed you. Others may criticize but do not be afraid, for this is the path I have chosen for you.) She had no idea about the thoughts that were going through my mind. God has a way of making His words clear to me.

Another young many I know had struggled with same-sex attraction and he was so afraid that God could not accept him, that he would never be happy. He was depressed and wished that he knew how to change to become "straight". But one night as he prayed, he was begging God to fill him with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues, and that night alone in the church the Holy Spirit fell on him and he

begin to speak in tongues and quake under the power of God. He told me that he sweated and quaked as God's mighty power shook his body. He said that night God spoke to him clearly, as he was being filled, that He was loved and that God would prepare someone for him to love and that being attracted to the same-sex was not taboo, it was just his path for life, that he didn't need to fear it. He said God gave him a peace that was unexplainable, as the spirit flowed over and over his soul and he spoke in tongues and was filled, God removed his fear and showed him that HE would use him to minister and work in the church and would be able to live a happy full life in spite of the rejection of many believers.

How many of us, have lived in church all our lives? Went to the house of God 3 or 4 times every week and worshipped, felt the Holy Ghost move upon us, felt His presence, knew we were saved… and followed all the things the pastor or evangelist said we needed to follow. Yet many times, not knowing why? Many times, coming home after a revival and criticizing the

minister's message, because we felt what he preached was extra-biblical? Meaning… he preached his own opinion, that it wasn't really what God required of all Christians. We would often come up with the phrase, "Well if it's your conviction then that's okay, but don't say that everyone has to do it." We know this as a fact. So many times when we hear a message that we don't agree with, we chalk it up as well… it's one of "those" messages. Take what you can and throw away the rest. I've heard preachers preach against such things as… short sleeves, splits in skirts, perms in your hair, wedding rings, roller skates, bowling alleys, using the internet. I've even watched as people "shouted" and "danced in the spirit" as they sang… "This train don't carry no internet, this train!!!"…. I want to say first off… that I do believe in the moving of the Holy Ghost. I grew up in a Pentecostal home where we felt God's power, we knew it was real. From healings to dancing in the spirit, to being slain onto the floor under a power so great that you didn't know almost where you were, the feeling was overwhelming. I've seen it, experienced it over and over again. Watched as

people were healed of sicknesses and watched as people's lives were completely delivered from demon possession and evil bonds of Satan, these things are real. Watched as children cried and prayed with their hands raised and people, even children, would begin to speak in tongues, a language they had never learned before as the power of the Holy Ghost enveloped them and filled them! It is real. But today that is not what I'm here to discuss. I'm here to discuss the fact that there is a reality in God and in His Spirit and yet there is many deceptions that are so easily accepted because it's easy to just listen to what others say to us, and not what God has already said in His word as truth. Sometimes we prefer to read the Bible as a reading book instead of study it's pages to see what it really contains for us today. God will deal with you if you pray earnestly and seek His face as you read from the Bible. Study it, absorb it, learn from it. Pray daily. Prayer and earnest seeking and study from God's word will bring truth. There should not be confusion, for God is not the author of confusion, he can show you and reveal to you in the pages of His word the truth that he

has for you.

Here are some truths that I have studied and searched and prayed about that God has impressed on my heart to share, so that others can experience the true freedom that we do have in Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior! The truth shall set you free and ye shall be free indeed!

One thing I want to say here before I continue on with Scripture, is that Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior never one time condemned homosexuality. In fact there are scriptures that could strongly suggest that Jesus honestly knew that it was a common aspect and that some people are simply born to be this way. I read an e-mail one time that someone had sent to me, and it said Jesus was a "gay-basher". I wanted to respond, but I didn't, I left it alone. But if anyone could show me one scripture where Jesus "bashed" gays… then it must be in some Bible that I haven't seen yet because he never spoke against it, not even once. In fact when He spoke against Sodom and Gomorrah, he spoke in a completely different context. He was talking about their inhospitality to the strangers, which honestly

probably did include sexual activities and rape etc. of course we know God condemns this. In fact He destroyed th whole valley because of their evil sins that continually went up to God. Jesus said that it would be more tolerable for them in the judgment than for the cities that would reject the disciples of Christ when they came to preach and spread the Gospel. These men were married and yet participated in all kinds of sexual acts. It was the evil promiscuity and disregard for God and other human life that brought judgment upon them, but many are so quick to just point out one point in the whole story and use it as a sermon to blast homosexuals and group all of us into one huge category. That is like grouping all heterosexuals into one category of abusers and evil because "those men want to have sex with every woman they see"… this statement is simply not true. There are many wonderful heterosexual men and women who love God and live a life a holiness and purity before God, just as there are many homosexual men and women who also live a life of holiness and purity before God, because we are covered by the blood of Jesus Christ and many remain faithful to their

partners and spouses until death do them part.

I Corinthians 6:9 and in I Timothy

The word that is translated here is arsenokite. This is a Greek word that in modern translations is translated as homosexual. But that is not the meaning of the word. In the King James version it is translated as abusers or defilers of themselves with mankind. In the Chinese Union version of the Bible it is rendered as promiscuous or perversion of love with men. The rendered definition here is “those that abuse themselves with mankind.” Referring to promiscuous sexuality, defiling themselves with mankind, often used as rape or sexual behavior with young male children. One Bible translation translates this as pederasty.

Pederasty or **paederasty** is a (usually erotic) homosexual relationship between an adult male and a pubescent or adolescent male. The word *pederasty* derives from Greek παιδεραστία (*paiderastia*) "love of boys",[1] a compound derived from παῖς (*pais*) "child, boy" and ἐραστής (*erastēs*)

"lover". (Wikipedia)

Defiling and abusers… This is not just 2 men or 2 women monogamously in love with each other. There is no reference with this word to forbid this kind of relationship. Romans chapter 1 also refers to men having sex with men, or women leaving the man to do things with other women. The whole context of this scripture has nothing to do with monogamy between 2 people that are in love. It says they were worshippers of false gods. Idol worshippers, they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, therefore He let them do what they wanted. Sinful promiscuity is what is happening here. Temple idolatry and the worship of false gods is what is happening here. There is never a forbiddance in the New Testament of love simply between 2 people.

The New Testament gives us an interesting reference saying there is no difference between male, female, free or slave. We are equal in Christ Jesus! The Old Testament refers 2 times to male with male sexual relations that it was abomination to do

so. These laws were to preserve seed among the Israelites and so that the people would not be like the Canaanites before them, worshipping idols and committing promiscuous acts of sin in the temples. Notice one interesting point. In the Old Testament there is NO reference to female homosexuality. It was not even forbidden by the Old law! There was no forbiddance for two women to lie in the same bed together and enjoy each other's love. Many of these kinds of laws were made for one, because of idol worship. Another reason is preservation of seed, and also to reduce the risk of the spread of disease. We know that it is more difficult for 2 women to spread disease than it is for men to spread. There is no forbiddance in the New Testament laws for us today of 2 men or women being in love if they are in a monogamous loving, godly relationship.

Uninhibited sexual activities were what the Bible refers to, "going after strange flesh"… it was all manner of fornications, not true love between 2 individual people. Also when it refers to strange flesh it possibly was referring to bestiality or sexual activity with fallen angels. In fact one of the most referred to

passages of scripture is in the Old Testament, the story of Sodom and Gomorrah. People will try to say this is proof that God will destroy the sodomite. If you really study the story and the history of this story and the other references in the Bible about it, this story is not about homosexuality, but about wicked sinful men that wanted to gang rape angels. These men even had wives and children, but they were sex hungry and the raping of foreigners would have been 'to conquer' them and show that they were more powerful than these visitors. There are all kinds of things happening in this story, it has nothing to do with two women or two men being in love with each other and following Christ together! The actions mentioned in the story of Sodom and Gomorrah were sporadic actions and fulfillment of lust instead.

As for the Old Law, Jesus said on these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets… Love the Lord they God with all they heart and all they soul and all thy mind and love thy neighbor as thyself. Do you follow these two great commandments? We want to add to God's word and make

people follow our own standards of living and teachings, but Jesus himself said this. What about the scripture where Jesus said, some men are made eunuchs of men, others choose to be eunuchs and then some are born eunuchs. We want to overlook these kinds of scriptures. He said that not everyone can accept it, but those who can accept being a eunuch there is nothing wrong with it. Jesus himself made these statements! Eunuchs were not just castrated men! They were often fully intact men, with no desire for women! If they were born that way, then they were not castrated! How did anyone know they were a eunuch… according to history, often their voice was higher pitched, they were sometimes not fully developed in their sexual organs or they simply had absolutely no desire to be with a woman sexually. Sometimes these men were known to have desire for a man instead. Yet they are never spoken evil of throughout the word of God in any manner or way! They in fact were mostly highly esteemed men.

We are gentile believers, the commandments for Gentile believers was very simply. It DID NOT include the old laws.

Therefore being homosexual was not a forbiddance to the gentile believers. Promiscuity or fornication was forbidden but not 2 men or 2 women in a monogamous committed relationship.

Why do I feel the need to spread this truth to anyone who will listen? My reasons, hopefully you will begin to understand after I explain. When I was very young… I can remember silly things that at the time I could not understand or explain, but now things are very clear to me. I can remember wanting to kiss my brother's friend he had brought home from kindergarten. I thought he was cute. I was only about 3 or 4 years old… but I thought my brother's kindergarten friend was so cute! It never occurred to me that I couldn't kiss another boy at that time. It was just a natural reaction. I kissed him. It felt so cool. My mother then told me that boys could not kiss other boys. So I felt a little embarrassed, but didn't understand why. As I went along in my younger years there were silly things that I would do, so different from my older brother. I would dress up in high-heels and put on my sister's small under slip that looked

like a little skirt. I thought it was fun to play dress-up, make long hair, stuff pillows in my clothes to make me look like I had big breasts. It was just all fun and games when I was young. I can remember dressing up in high heels and preaching to my sisters and brother, pretending I was a woman preacher. My brother made the comments that I was sinning because I was wearing pants if I was a woman preacher. It was all a part of the Wesleyan holiness mentality. We actually believed that if a woman wore pants or trimmed her hair that she would be sinning. One night I can remember being in a van with all the young people from the church. We were all coming home from a church activity or service and when we arrived at one family's home, they had a son that was about 2 or 3 years older than me. I thought he was so cute. I wanted to kiss him good night. So when he exited the church van that night I kissed him good night. I can remember the other kids laughing at me and making fun, as to why did I want to kiss a boy??!!! (Reminds me of Katy Perry's song, "I kissed a girl and I liked it.") But I lay there on the floor of the van after I had kissed

him good night and felt like I was on the highest cloud that could possibly be! I remember that feeling of his kiss! It wasn't until many, many years later that I would ever be able to truly experience that peace and freedom again from the romantic kiss of a man that cared for me. Why throughout my childhood, I remember having feelings for men? Why did I feel the desire to have a boyfriend or a guy kiss me… not a girl? I can remember getting the Sears or JcPenney catalog in the mail or even the Avon magazine and I wanted so bad to find the section with the men's underwear so that I could see how "hot" the men were… and how much I wanted a man in my life. I never once wanted to peek at the women's section. I can remember in my seventh grade science class our teacher would often show us science films or his favorite to show us was Ripley's Believe it or Not. Once he showed us a video of how people in Asia would play with what was similar to the hacky-sack and they were very talented to play that game. The man in the show was young and was obviously a gymnast. I still to this day remember how I felt in that class watching that.

Wishing in my heart, that I could just know someone like that young man. Someone to just be with me, to let me know someone like that Asian man, to just love someone like that, that's all I wanted! Never once did I even desire for a woman's touch sexually. Why am I willing to open up and allow others to see the "torment" I went through as a child? Or even the very secrets of my heart? Because I want someone else to be able to see that God is not often the God that we think He is. He is a God of mercy. He made us who we are, whether we are attracted to the opposite sex or to the same, we can still be a child of God! I hope someone will read this book and realize that they don't have to give up! They don't have to leave the church! They don't have to leave the love of Christ if they are gay! We can blame all of this on all kinds of things, the lack of fatherly love or the over protection of a mother, or on and on. But honestly, I want to refer once again to the scripture that Jesus said… some men are born eunuchs.

Eunuch means chamberlain or keeper of the bed. This word can be taken to have more than one meaning. One is simply,

he or she kept her bed, meaning… did not have sex with anyone. But the word is actually quite literal in translation. Keeper of the bed, they were the one that kept the bed of the King or Queen. The eunuch was the one that helped in the bedchamber, the one that prepared everything for the royal family, whether it was the concubines or wives or the king himself. History proves that these men had distaste for sexual activities with women. This was one reason they were trusted with the women. They were not all castrated men. Were they disdained because they were attracted to men instead of women? Of course not! Since they were bed keepers, there were times that they were probably abused by Kings to take the place of a woman. This was not honorable at all… it would have been abuse. But these men and women were respected as normal individuals. But true love between 2 individuals is not dishonorable nor is it unnatural. It has always been a part of truth that some men and women were born differently than others. There are strange cases where someone is born with both sexes or a hermaphrodite, although this term is not used

much today. There are cases for example where a family had three supposed daughters to find out that on the outside they were women, but on the inside they were men, medically proven fact. They had the chromosomes of a man not a woman. This happened in Taiwan where I am currently a missionary. Yes it is possible. We have all kinds of defects and things that are not the normal. Even today there are people born that their mannerisms and the way they look is much more like the opposite sex and they feel inside they are not the sex they are born into, thus transgender people have become a topic of modern and recent news. Many time the rest of society do not understand what these people go through. Prayer and love should be used to deal with all of these issues. But the church should never reject anyone, since Christ opened the way to ALL! Just because some people are born differently in their desires or in their physical make-up are we supposed to say, because they are not so-called "normal", God will not accept that? Impossible! God will accept all who are willing to come to Him. Male, female, bond or free! Under the Old Law, those

that were born with defects were sometimes not allowed to enter into the place or worship. But today Jesus came to fulfill the law! Jesus said put all the law on these two commandments, love the Lord your God will all your heart and soul and mind and love your neighbor as yourself! Jesus never once condemned homosexuality. He knew it existed in his day. He had seen the Roman way of life.

Why do I write these things? To hopefully help someone else and to let others know that I am still saved and a born again Christian, even though I am and have always been a homosexual. When I was 16 years old I had a crush on someone in my high school. It was a guy of course, and there was nothing that I could do about it. I would see him everyday at school and I thought I was going to go to hell if I kept having these thoughts. I kept fasting and praying until I lost so much weight that I looked sick. I couldn't eat. Everyday at school I would see the guy that I was so attracted to and so forbidden to ever have anything to do with… not only forbidden to like him, but any guy that I felt attracted to for that matter. I felt doomed. I

couldn't feel anything for any girls. There was a couple of times when I was in 4th or 5th grade in elementary school that I asked a girl to "go out with me" for about as long as a play period was and then I would break up with her. It seemed to be the thing to do at that age. Everyone did it. It had nothing to do with wanting to kiss a girl or wanting to hold their hand. In 6th grade I can remember beginning to feel strong attraction to the guys. That's when I began to realize that I was different for some reason. Of course I had thought it must be wrong or something must be wrong with me, why do I have these thoughts. I had heard a little bit about being gay, but not too much. I didn't even understand it, didn't know why I had these thoughts. We didn't have a TV in our home, so I had never seen it in movies. We didn't have bad magazines or anything so I had no influence from something like that. It came naturally. It happened when it was time for me to start being interested in pursuing a relationship with someone, the interest was male, never female. There were times I would meet a girl at church youth camp and feel some interest… but I can remember I was

more attracted to her brother than to her. I wanted to be his "best friend". I didn't know how else to put it. It was just a feeling that I had inside. I was attracted to him.

From the time I was quite young I have always tried to be a very spiritual young man, to pray and seek God, to spend much time talking to God. It was when I was finally in high school I made up my mind to spend time praying by myself. I prayed sometimes for hours. I would pray until I could feel the Holy Ghost moving so powerfully in my heart. I can remember one time as I prayed up in the forest behind our house, I had built a small tree house there, I was praying and crying so loud, the neighbor from far away called my parents thinking something was wrong with me or that someone I knew had died… I was just praying! But all the time I prayed and cried out to God, all the times that I sought for God's guidance and hand to lead me, I was being tormented inside because of my desire and attraction to men, not to girls. When I was about 17 I nearly lost my mind. I finally decided I would tell my sister what was wrong with me. The only words I knew to say were, "I think I have

unnatural desires." It was a terrible time. I had been fasting and trying to get "deliverance" from God for having these feelings. The boy at school that I was so attracted to, and didn't know how to face school everyday without seeing him and feeling such a strong attraction for him, it made me feel like I would die. Because I thought in my heart everyday I was sinning because I was attracted to someone of the same sex as I. For many months after I confessed my feelings to my sister, the devil literally tried to destroy my mind. I thought I had blasphemed against the Holy Ghost and that I was doomed to hell for all eternity. I spent days and months of feeling like I was literally going crazy. The devil took liberty actually through religion to try to destroy me mentally. When my parents or friends would convince me that I hadn't blasphemed, then I was afraid I would blaspheme somehow. Even crazy ways, such as putting my head down on my pillow at night, I thought it would be an unpardonable sin… or walking past something like a trash can or walking past words that were written on things, because some words would make me think of

other bad words… and so the torment mentally went on and on… until it was driving me and my family almost completely crazy. I made bad grades in school and I can remember the counselors coming in to my classes to watch me to see what was wrong with me. When they would come in, then I would straighten up and do my best not to let them see me so troubled and upset. This was one of the most horrible years of my life as the devil used all of these things against me. It wasn't until many months later that I finally began slow progress upwards, when I told the Lord one night, "No matter what happens to me, I'm going to live for you." It was that night that victory in my life began to come over the torments of the devil. At that time I tried to not think about the gay lifestyle and just completely focus on God. I just wish at that time that I knew then what I know now. I would never have had to go through the torments that I went through had I known, that being gay is a normal part of God's creation and that some men and some women are simply born this way.

Focusing on God completely worked to an extent, except

whenever I tried to think about romance… there was no desire for a girl. I tried to date off and on many girls. I would see a girl and think she is beautiful, so I would ask her out. Sometimes they accepted sometimes not. But if I dated for awhile, then when it would come to a point where I knew the girl wanted me to hold her hand or kiss her, I would break up. I couldn't stand the thought of touching her. I couldn't stand the kiss… I felt sick. I didn't understand how other guys would say that if they kissed a girl they had to really be careful or they might want to go farther than they should with the good Christian girl. I thought well I must be really holy or something, because I have NO desire to kiss her. Even the couple of times that a girl wanted me to kiss her… it felt so wrong and so disgusting to me and it wasn't because the girl was not beautiful either. There were times I dated girls that were so beautiful. They had the perfect figure or had the perfect face, but there was literally no desire at all to ever, ever cross the line. If I thought about having to go to bed with her… that is if someday I decided to marry her, then I would

have to break up. I couldn't stand to even think about it. There was no desire at all sexually. My family sometimes would say you look so happy when you are with her or something to that effect. But they didn't realize the struggle that was going on inside. It felt like I was hanging out with a good friend and that was it. There was no desire to touch, no desire to kiss, no desire to be affectionate in any way except to simply "hang out" as friends. At times people would try to arrange time for me to be alone with the girl… thinking we needed time to be alone and talk. I didn't want to be alone with her. I had no feeling. I can remember being alone with girls several times. I never once wanted to touch her, I never once wanted to even put my arms around her or hold her. I never felt like going over and kissing her. There was simply nothing there. I know at that time I hurt many girls' feelings and made many feel bad towards me. I wish now that I could go back and undo all those things that happened, but I can't. It was tradition and misunderstood religion that pushed me to do the things that I did. Now I hope to live in a truth between

myself and God where I can live for God and love someone that God puts in my life at the same time and still do my best to do His perfect will in my life.

Chapter 9

Reiteration: In Relation to scripture

In the Old Testament we see the most famous story that is always brought up when referring to homosexuality… of Sodom and Gomorrah. These two cities were to be destroyed because of their sins. The Bible does not tell us everything about their sins, but people always assume that it was homosexuality. But God was going to destroy before the incident with the angels. It was a city of sin… there were men that were married with children, yet promiscuously had sexual relations apparently with whomever they desired… it was a city of sin altogether. It was not condemned for homosexuality, it was condemned for it's sin. One of the sins there was their treatment of strangers from the

outside… the Bible says this over and over again. It is possible that when strangers came they did do terrible things to them. Even today we would consider this kind of thing a sin. For a stranger to come to your home and others want to rape them? Of course, it's wrong. Of course it's a sin, but homosexuality is not the main idea here it is simply their defiance of God and their sins that were many. Many preachers today want to use this story to condemn men and women who are in a monogamous truly loving relationship with each other and it is simply taking scripture out of context to do so.

In the book of Romans, chapter 1, there are many people who believe this is the clearest scripture that would speak against homosexuality. In fact it is the only place in the entire bible that female homosexuality is even mentioned at all. In the entire bible only Paul in the book of Romans mentioned, possibly, female lesbianism. The scripture here just like any other scripture must be taken into proper context. We will look at some scriptures in the bible and say, well we know at that time this was happening so that is why we know today it is not

really necessary to follow that exactly in that way. This happens all the time, even in churches that claim to follow "everything" about the bible. I grew up in a church where women didn't cut their hair because of I Corinthians chapter 11. But the very same scripture also talks about veils being on the head. It's not only referring to hair. We can ignore it if we want, but it is proven to be true, Paul also was referring to veils, even though hair is given for a covering, at that time it was custom for women to also wear veils on their heads. Do we follow this in our churches? No of course not, we understand the context of the scripture that at the time it was necessary to keep people from thinking that the woman was a prostitute. What about where it says for women to keep silent in the church? Well, we study it and realize that it was for that day… and we have to understand what Paul was referring to. Possibly where men and women sat on opposite sides of the church and women would want to ask their husbands questions and Paul said to wait until you get home to ask… well that is one explanation that I have heard. But that isn't what the Bible says there…

but we study it because we want to try to find out exactly what it says and what it means, because we know that some women are anointed to preach and that some women have the ability to be moved on by the Holy Ghost and prophesy or pray in the church. But today why do we pick and choose from the Bible what we want? Because we feel we can justify the things we want to do. I do not want to try to justify sin. I cannot justify sin. It would go against everything I have ever believed to just say, sinning is okay, because I know it is not okay. But to say that all homosexuals are wrong, that all homosexual activity is wrong, it absolutely is not biblical, nor is there enough scripture to prove that to be true. So I urge you to study the Bible for what it really says and study the inspiration behind why Paul wrote what he did about homosexuality at that time. Why was he even writing about men and women worshipping idols and what they were doing there when the sexual acts were taking place, men with men or women with women. What were they doing? They were refusing to worship God and were worshipping idols and part of this frenzy was sexual activity.

There is history upon history recorded about what Paul was really talking about when he wrote these scriptures. It simply is NOT referring to one man loving another man or simply one woman loving another woman in true monogamous love. It simply is NOT referring to when two people love God and want to love each other there is no law against this no matter how many preachers preach it from their pulpits. The Bible will stand true. Let God be true and every man a liar. I by God's grace plan to follow His word, even if others do not agree with me. I was born to be a eunuch or a gay male and I know God did not make me this way to reject me. I feel Him when I pray. I feel His Spirit. I feel His touch. I feel His hand with me. He is my God and my Savior and in Him I will trust. For those of us who have this instinct within us to feel natural attraction to the same sex, we would have to feel that somehow God made a mistake, which I know is not truth either! In the book of Romans, Paul, in the very first part of the chapter, he was talking of those people that were worshippers of idols and changed God into an image like that of animals or creatures…

and because they “did not like to retain God in their knowledge” He gave them over to their lusts to do terrible things among themselves. Men and women doing terrible sexual acts and violence and perversions that were so terrible that if you lived in that day you would perfectly understand why Paul was writing these things. It was common for people to cut themselves or castrate themselves in frenzies as they worshipped their gods. They would have sex with many people, sexual parties and orgies that was so defiling. There were call-boys or male prostitutes that were used simply for sexual pleasures. There was pederasty or the using of young men or boys for the sexual pleasure of older men. This was exactly what Paul was writing about. It is also exactly what Paul was writing about when he mentions it again to Timothy in the first book 1:10 and also in I Corinthians 6:9. The words used in these scriptures have been changed by many modern translations to say homosexuality which is not a proper translation, since the word didn’t exist before… Paul’s reference here in these passages was once again referring to what was written about in Romans, whether Paul

wrote Romans or not, it is written with the same idea in mind… "abusers of themselves with mankind" as the King James puts it. This has nothing to do with 2 people loving each other and being in a committed loving relationship. You can go back to the Old Testament if you want and refer to the moral laws of the Old Testament that spoke against a man lying with another man as he would a woman. I can admit that in the Old Testament many laws were made and for many reasons. But when Jesus came, he came to fulfill the law and to set us free from the law. In one same passage as the laws about two men it also refers to sleeping with your wife during her menstrual cycle would be considered a sin as well, or many other things… but sometimes we want to say that we must still follow the "moral laws" and yet we pick and choose from the Old Testament laws what we feel is still necessary for today and for what is not we say, well Jesus did away with that part. What are we doing? We are dooming great people, that are gay and that are attracted to the same sex, to hell, simply because we don't understand why they can have those kinds of feelings! I am here to tell you that as a

man that has been filled with the Holy Ghost since I was about age 12 and have been so blessed by God and anointed by his Spirit, I am here to say, that I have to come to another conclusion about the way we treat these people that we want to so readily throw out and consider to be an abomination to God… we need to study and find the truth before we condemn those that have not been condemned. I have seen some churches and pastors that would not even baptize someone even after that had been saved, and even filled with the Holy Ghost, if that person had been married before. In another words, if the person had divorced and remarried and then gotten saved… that pastor stood in the place of God and said they could not baptize that person because they felt every night when that sister or brother went home and went to bed, they were committing perpetual adultery all over again every night. There are many churches that have believed such lies and it has caused many to turn away from God and possibly will cause many to go to hell simply because they have believed the lies of these pastors that claim to be carrying the truth of God's Word! What have we

done, what are we doing? I just ask that you reconsider seriously the outcome of such doctrine. Christ never meant for his church to be only full of perfect people that have never made mistakes, nor did he expect that in his church all would be spotless, for it is only by the blood of Jesus Christ that makes us worthy to enter into Heaven! Only by His blood are we worthy, therefore, through the blood of Christ, those that are divorced and remarried, their past is forgiven and forgotten, those that are in committed homosexual and lesbian relationships, their hearts are just as clean and pure before God as anyone else as long as they live within the confines of God's Word. I know we want to say that it is not the perfect or ideal way. But neither has many, many of God's servants throughout history been completely ideal, but they still were God's children and were accepted by God anyway. King David had many wives and scripture very strongly suggests that he and Jonathan had a love relationship, whether sexual or no, no one can tell, but their love did surpass the love of women, the Bible is very specific about this. Did God reject him? No, absolutely not, he was a man

after God's own heart! He suffered at times for his wrongs but God still loved him anyway, and in spite of it all, he still had many wives and was considered a servant of God. Lesbianism is never spoken against in the Old Testament and even only in one place in the New Testament does it even suggest it, in the book of Romans. But in that context it is referred to in context with idol worship and promiscuity that went along with the pagan rituals of idol worship. But it is commonly known that Kings had many wives, and it is so very possible, that they did not just sleep with one woman per night, constituting a form of lesbianism or an act of bisexual nature for the King's pleasure. Was this condemned? God still loved the Kings of Israel and blessed them and gave them wisdom and honored them. We want to pretend that all of these forefathers were such good examples when in all reality, if they showed up at some of our churches today, they wouldn't even be allowed to get onto our platforms because they wouldn't fit the requirements that we have set up in our churches. I dare say that John the Baptist did not have enough clothes on to stand up in our pulpits today.

One of the prophets of old walked around showing his buttocks for a period of time… what if a minister did that today? God forbid, he'd never be forgiven. I have seen those in the church today that have hid their feelings of homosexuality for years, and time after time failing because they didn't know how to control the urges. Marrying, because it was the only accepted thing, all the while causing their wife absolute sadness when they could not perform the required duties as a husband, because their mind was somewhere completely different, always wishing, always lacking in heart, because in their mind and inner consciousness knowing they desired a completely different relationship that what they chose. Then one day when they were discovered, the scandal was great, the hurt was even greater, and that family was destroyed, all because one man or one woman was never allowed to act on their truly inborn nature to be the eunuch, or homosexual or lesbian they were born to be. While all along they could have served God at a greater capacity and in a more powerful way, had they been allowed to have the true love they needed in their home, the companionship of the

same sex rather than the opposite sex to which they could never relate and could never feel fulfilled with.

II Timothy 3:3 is another scripture that is often brought up. But we must again look at the context it was written and what is it talking about? Paul was writing to Timothy about those that have a lack of natural affection. Does this mean homosexuals? No, not at all! He is referring to the same thing that Jesus referred to in Matthew chapter 10 verse 21. Parents had lost a natural affection to love their children. We often want to "read-into" the Bible what is actually not really being said. But this is extra-biblical and will cause many wrongs and misunderstandings. The Roman people were known according to history, to kill their own children. Especially if they were deformed or something wrong with them, they simply killed them. This crime of killing children because of a lack of natural affection still goes on in the world today. Nations such as China or even in Taiwan at times, the baby will be "forced born" early then exposed without attention to cause it's death. It is unnatural. This is what Paul was referring to, not to simply

2 people loving each other.

There is also the issue in the Old Testament of circumcision. It was something that had to be followed. But in the New Testament this was done away with… we cannot just pick and choose what we think still stands today. The Old Law including the parts about homosexuality do not stand for an argument for the Christian church of today. The laws against a man sleeping with his wife during menstruation do not stand today. There are so many laws that do not stand. There are other issues in the Old Testament that we tend to look over and ignore, or we want to say, "Well that was for then and not for now." Many people want to pick and choose the parts of the old law that does not fit for today, and yet they choose things out of the old law that they feel does fit for today. We confuse ourselves and in churches all over the USA and around the world, we all have different ideas about what we should or should not do, or can or cannot do. It becomes confusing and sometimes completely insane as to what people believe is right or wrong. Many people in the Old Testament for example, had

many wives. Was this what God wanted? No, God didn't really want them to have many wives, but David was still a man after God's own heart. Abraham was a friend of God, and yet they both had many wives. Was this good? Not really, but God still loved them and used them. Why today do we feel that if someone falls in love with the same sex that they are bound for hell? Cannot God use us as well and love us as well, even though we were born differently than others, some might say with defect… but for us it is normal, even though we don't fit the original normal thinking of others? Even though we may not be able to fit the pattern of marrying and producing children as others do… cannot God use us and love us? We are not breaking the commandments. We are not breaking the laws of God. We are simply going against traditional thinking. Abraham was following traditional thinking at the time and God reprimanded him for it, but still loved him and used him and He became the greatest nation on Earth. I have met some wonderful missionaries and pastors that are gay and lesbian and they are anointed and preach under the anointing and God uses

them to lead many to know Him… and yet to most traditional thinking, they would say, "They are not even saved!" If we could bring the saints from the Bible to our generation today, there are not any of them that could preach or speak on most of the "Holiness" church platforms of the churches that I grew up in. They wouldn't be allowed to sing in the choir and they certainly wouldn't be a candidate for a pastor or teacher or deacon in the church, because none of them fit the "so-called biblical holiness" that most churches require and teach. Even Jesus Christ himself would not be allowed on most platforms… sad to say, we have not only pushed out Jesus Christ but we have pushed out all of those that Jesus Christ so earnestly told us to love and reach. We have pushed them aside because we didn't know how to deal with them. We look at them as hopeless. Never, ever did Jesus look at someone as hopeless! Never, ever did Jesus condemn the homosexual. There is not one scripture that Jesus spoke in condemnation to them. Yet in Jesus' day they were all around, the Greeks and Romans were known for having same-sex partners and yes their idol worship

and terrible orgies and horrible sexual sins were considered evil and ungodly, but when a Roman came to Jesus for help with his servant, and in fact it is very possible that this Roman leader was in love with the servant according to many theologians, the wording that is used in the Greek is the same word that is used often for same-sex companion or lover, who knows… we will never know for sure, but Jesus would have known that this was common during that day. Jesus would have known if it were true or not that these two men were in love. Even if they weren't he never mentioned the fact, he never said that since these guys are not in love I'll heal the servant. He never said, if these guys were really in love that I wouldn't do it. He just said, your servant will be healed, and then He also said, " I have never seen such great faith, no not in Israel." Why did He say these things? Because faith in God and faith in Christ was more important than peoples opinions and attitudes and traditional thinking or anything in this world for that matter! Recently I preached at a church that is almost all gay or lesbian. It was my first time to be the main speaker at this kind of

gathering. God dealt with my heart to preach to them that more than anything else to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. In spite of all the pressure from others that they cannot have a personal relationship with Christ, they must put Christ first. I shared with them how I went through such horrible things when pastors in the USA found out about my sexual orientation. The horrible things that were said, I shared some of these things. I told them that if I had not put Jesus first in my life, then I could not have made it through. Jesus is my personal savior. The Bible tells us to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. It doesn't tell us to work out other's salvation with fear and trembling. We so often want to point at the mote in another's eye and we ourselves have a beam in our own eye. It is so common. I know of a church that will not baptize a sister in the church, even though she is saved and filled with the Holy Ghost. She even speaks in tongues when she prays. She even has long hair and wears dresses every day and never wears make-up or jewelry. Is she saved? Yes! Is she filled with the Holy Ghost? Yes! But the pastor

will not baptize her because of the pressure from the church. Why? Because when she got saved, she was in second marriage. The husband she is married to is not her first husband. She was married before him and then one day she met Christ and was born again. Everyone was so happy! Wow she is born again! Thank God! They prayed for her, she was filled with the Holy Ghost too! But then, they found out she was in second marriage. Oh what a shame they thought, every night when she goes home to bed, she is sinning. She is sleeping with a man that is not her husband according to their thinking. So they refused to baptize her. Until now she has never been baptized and she has been saved and Holy Ghost filled for many years. The pastor of the church himself told me about this. He was sad in his heart. He said he wished he could baptize her. He wished that he could have done it before he knew about her situation. But now he's bound by the people, because they believe in a doctrine called, "perpetual adultery." They believe if you are in second marriage, no matter how much you pray or shout or dance in the Spirit, that

when you go home at night, you are sinning against God and you will die and go to hell for all eternity even though you love Jesus with all your heart. What in the world have we done in our churches? We have pushed out people that Jesus NEVER would have pushed out. We have shoved aside those with wedding bands, those with splits in their skirts, those with trimmed hair, those with make-up, those wearing rings, those wearing open-toed shoes, those wearing ties, those with too flashy of clothes, those with a bit more effeminate personality, those with a tainted past, those with same-sex attractions, those with…, those with…, those with… and the list goes on and on. What have we done church? What have we done? I hope that those of you who dare to read this book with be convicted in your hearts as I try my best to address the issues of many churches across the USA and even in other countries. I wish that you would repent and reconsider your teachings that have pushed out so many and have kept so many from Christ and even have pushed many to suicide because they felt they were completely hopeless. They felt there was no way that God

would ever love them in their condition. They KNEW inside there was no way they could change that part of who they are, how they were born, no more than a hermaphrodite can change the fact that he or she has a mixture of chromosomes and is both male and female. Who does a hermaphrodite marry? Who do they fall in love with? Are they a sinner because they are an individual with this issue? No, God made them just the way they are. Yes maybe their condition is a result from the fall of man, but that doesn't change the fact that they are still born this way!! IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT THEY CAN BE ATTRACTED TO EITHER SEX! Why would we condemn those that are born in this condition? We would never want to condemn them, yet we condemn those that are born gay or lesbian??!! Traditional thinking is that gay and lesbian is not born this way, that it was from influence or that it was a choice. But I am here to tell you, it was not from influence. I never was influenced by TV, because I grew up without one. I was never influenced by magazines, because my small town had no "gay magazines." I was not influenced by internet or smart

phone nor the internet, because it didn't exist yet as I grew up. Yet here I am, knowing I was different and knowing I was attracted to the same-sex from the time I was a little child.

Another topic I would like to address is the fact that we often substitute condemnation for conviction. What is the difference? Well let me give you and example. If all your life you have been taught that something is wrong, even though the Bible does not teach that it is wrong, then when you do that thing, you will feel that you are sinning. There are examples where someone does something that they have been taught is wrong, even though the thing itself may not be wrong, the reason for doing that thing, could be out of rebellion against parents, church, or pastor etc. The actual sin is not the thing, but the rebellion. But that is a different situation. What I am referring to is feeling like you sinned just because you've always been taught something was a sin, even though it is actually not. For example, I met some people that went to a church, where for many years the lady pastor had taught them they could not do many many things. Such as shave their legs, or fix their hair in

a different way, or maybe wear deodorant. Saying such things were of the world and that a Christian should not do those things. One of the sisters from that church talked to me one night and told me her and her husband had left the church, but she said, I still feel condemnation when I do those things that I was taught against, even though I know it is not biblical. Why did she feel that way? We allow ourselves to believe we are convicted by God or by the Holy Ghost when actually it is not God's Spirit at all that is dealing with us! It is teaching that we have learned, a brain-washing so to speak. I can remember when I was young, my parents wore wedding rings, or my sister might wear a necklace. My dad would wear short pants when we went swimming. But as we begin to fellowship and attend other stricter holiness churches, those things were not permitted. So we conformed to the rules. I've had many others tell me the same thing. When they were younger, they trimmed their hair as girls, or wore a little make-up etc. But now they have conformed to the church rules, where ministers and pastors will get up and preach that if you break those rules you are sinning

and will go to hell. Why? Does that mean when I was younger my parents weren't really saved? No! Of course it doesn't! Then why do we do it? To fit into society, to fit into what is accepted as the right actions to take, the right rules to follow, for if we did not, then we were not accepted as a fellow "equal". We have taken the whole focus many times, off of what is truly and honestly important and focused on things just like the Pharisees did in their day. So if a gay couple comes into your church and sits listening to the sermon, will anyone be willing to pray with them for salvation, not rebuke them for their same-sex relationship, but honestly and truly simply share the gospel message with them so that their souls will be saved from hell?

I saw a young man come to the church I was attending at the time in Oklahoma. The young man came up to pray at the altar and was trying to pray. After he prayed, they asked if he wanted to say anything. He just stood up and said he thanked God for helping him, that he had done many things he wasn't proud of. After that service he never came back. I didn't

know why, but I heard another young person talking from our church saying… “Yeah, he said he did things he wasn’t proud of, that’s cause he’s a queer!”

I was so upset by his words! It made me so angry. If that young man would have been asked to keep coming in spite of the fact that he had same-sex attraction, he might still be on his way to Heaven today!

I witnessed to a young man here in Taiwan one day and he said, why should I believe in your God since He can’t accept me? I’m gay and doesn’t your God reject us? I was thankful that I had already found the truth at that time and I said, “NO! God doesn’t reject us. He just requires us to be pure and not be sexually promiscuous, he doesn’t care if you love male or female, it’s promiscuity that he cannot accept. After that the young man ended up letting me pray with him many times and slowly began to move toward Christianity.

What have we done in many of our churches? Run people away because of condemnation and rules? God forgive us for our wrongs!

Luke 17:34 is an interesting verse… there will be two men in the bed one will be taken the other left behind. Although the word men is in italics meaning it was added for understanding… it's still an interesting verse in the KJV. ☺

Happy Moments: November 14, 2015

I made my own wedding cake for my partner and I. We had a wonderful Christian wedding and we were both touched and

moved by the people of God that supported us and prayed for us. We are so thankful to Pastor Julia of Grace Church in Tainan, Taiwan. She now pastors Church Alive in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. Also, we are thankful to Encounter Missions International (EMI) from Glory Center in Bellflower, California. We love and appreciate Denise and Diane, missionaries to Taiwan at that time from EMI. Also Missionary Janet Robertson that prayed over us at the wedding and has been such a blessing to us through these years. It was because of these people and Pastor Joseph in Taipei, Taiwan, and many others that I have finally come to accept myself as who God made me to be.

I hope this book has helped you. I hope that my words are a blessing and help many to see the struggle LGBT people deal with in their lives. Some that may be Bi, maybe could marry the opposite sex and be happy. But some that are Gay or Lesbian cannot. They have no way to change the inborn attraction. May God help you to understand and may God guide each of our lives in His grace!

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